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DKS: No qualms about Siddu staying as CM

There's unity in the party, claims Dy CM

Page 5

Karnataka beat AP to win Women's U–19 T20 Trophy

Page 15

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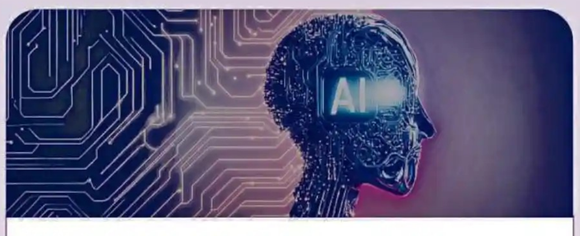

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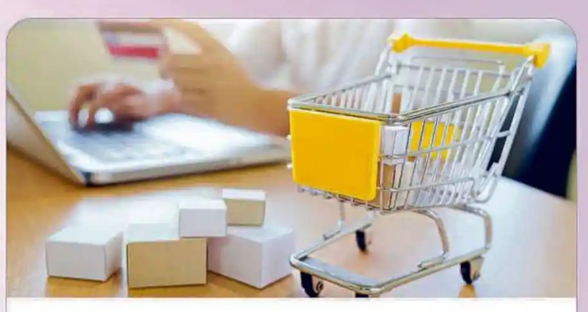

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Bengaluru Thursday, November 13, 2025 Pages 18 Vol 78 No 313 ₹7

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The Power of Good

Dhruv Jurel emerges out of Pant's shadows

In-form keeper to play as specialist batsman in SA Test series

Page 16

World

India reaffirms support to Bhutan's 13th 5-yr plan P.12

Business P.13

Govt announces Rs 45k cr scheme to support exporters

Business

Swiggy to raise Rs 10k cr to push growth P.13

Nation

Betting app case: Prakash Raj quizzed P.10

Delhi blast: Red car linked to terror module traced

Traces of ammonium nitrate, another powerful explosive at blast site

NEW DELHI, DHNS

A red Ford EcoSport car suspected to have been used by members of the 'white collar terror' module, allegedly involved in the blast near the Red Fort, was traced to a village near Haryana's Faridabad on Wednesday, officials said.

The car is registered in the name of blast accused Dr Umar Un Nabi.

Investigators in the Delhi Police were looking for the red car with the registration number DL 10 CK 458 following information that it was being used by Dr Umar's associates. Officials said the car was traced outside a house in Khandawali.

There are indications that 4-5 more cars, which are suspected to have been used by the module in the recent past, are also under scanner.

The development came as investigators claimed that Dr Muzammil Ganaie, a doctor who was arrested from Faridabad in connection with the seizure of a huge quantity of explosives, and Dr Umar allegedly recced the Red Fort area several times in January, citing an analysis of data retrieved from his seized mobile phone.

Dr Muzammil is an associate of Dr Umar, who was allegedly driving the i20 Hyundai car that exploded near the Red Fort.

According to the sleuths, the duo was aiming to study the security system put in place in and around the historic monument. They claimed the duo's movement was corroborated with the tower location of their mobiles and the reconnaissance was part of the preparations to strike in the national capital.

With the information about the red car emerging, police had sounded an alert across the national capital. Preliminary investigations had indicated that other suspects of the "white collar terror module" were using the red car.

▸ Terror, Page 4

Modi visits blast victims, P7

'Differences over moving abroad': Ex-husband, P7

Officials inspect cars damaged in the blast near Red Fort, in New Delhi, Wednesday. PTI

Ford EcoSport car registered in the name of blast accused Dr Umar Un Nabi

ON THE TRAIL

- Car found near a house in Khandawali
- Indications that 4-5 more cars are under scanner
- Sleuths suspect Dr Muzammil Ganaie and Dr Umar recced the Red Fort area several times
- Officials felt the blast may not have been planned
- It could have been accidental while transporting a hastily assembled device
- Forensic experts collected at least 40 samples from blast site
- A preacher living inside Al-Falah University complex and a car dealer also in police custody

Delhi blast a terror attack: Union govt

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday unequivocally condemned the "heinous terror incident perpetrated by anti-national forces" near the Red Fort and directed the agencies to pursue the investigation with "utmost urgency and professionalism" so that the "perpetrators, their collaborators, and their sponsors" are identified and brought to justice.

Details on Page 7

Sacked for terror links, medic ended up in Faridabad

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

The trail of the Red Fort car blast and the busting of a "doctor terror module" have led the police to Dr Nisar-ul-Hassan, a Kashmiri doctor who was terminated from government service on terror charges in 2023.

Dr Hassan has reportedly gone missing from Faridabad.

Formerly an associate professor at Srinagar's SMHS Hospital, he was dismissed by the J&K administration under Article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution — a provision that allows the government to terminate employees without inquiry in cases involving state security.

After his dismissal, Dr Hassan reportedly took up a position as a professor in the department of medicine at Al-Falah University, Faridabad, which is now on the radar of central agencies.

Officials said Dr Hassan's sudden disappearance after the Red Fort blast has deepened suspicions of his possible role in the larger network of radicalised professionals accused of facilitating terror logistics.

▸ Kashmir, Page 5

US needs talent from outside: Trump on H-1B visa issue

NEW YORK, PTI: US President Donald Trump appeared to defend the H-1B visa programme to bring talent from across the world, saying a foreign investor cannot pull people off an unemployment line and start making missiles.

"I agree but you also do have to bring in talent," Trump said, responding to a question of Fox News' Laura Ingraham on H-1B visas.

When Ingraham noted that "we have plenty of talent", Trump said, "No, you don't, no, you don't. You don't have certain talents. And people have to learn."

"...You can't just say a country is coming in, going to invest $10 billion to build a plant and going to take people off an unemployment line who haven't worked in five years, and they're going to start making missiles. It doesn't work that way," the president said.

Retail inflation at record low in Oct

GST cuts, good monsoon bring down rate to 0.25%, lowest in 10 years

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

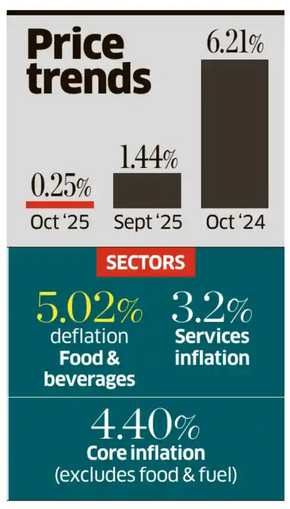
India's annual retail inflation fell to 0.25% in October, the lowest in at least 10 years, as GST reduction and a good monsoon made food and a majority of essential items cheaper on a year-on-year basis, the government data showed on Wednesday.

The October inflation is the lowest on record in the current Consumer Price Index (CPI) data series, which was introduced in 2015. The September inflation data has been revised downward to 1.44% from the provisional 1.54% reported last month.

While urban areas witnessed an inflation of 0.88% in October, there was 0.25% deflation in rural India.

The headline inflation has breached the RBI's lower tolerance limit of 2% for the second consecutive month. The central bank has been mandated to maintain inflation in the range of 2-6%. The ideal target is 4%.

▸ Inflation, Page 6



GO: Menstrual leave to be used in same month

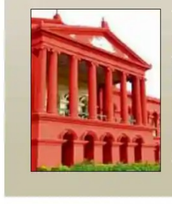
BENGALURU, DHNS: All working women aged 18-52 in permanent, contractual and outsourced jobs will get one day of menstrual leave a month, according to a Government Order passed on Wednesday.

"Employers have been directed to provide 12 paid leaves a year to all women employees aged 18-52 in establishments coming under Factories Act, 1948, Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1961, Plantation Workers Act, 1951, Beedi Cigar Workers (condition of employment) Act, 1966 and Motor Vehicle Workers Act, 1961," the order said.

The Shops and Commercial Establishment Act includes IT and ITES companies. The GO comes around a month after the state Cabinet cleared the Menstrual Leave Policy 2025, which grants 12 menstrual leaves a year (1 per month).

▸ Menstrual leave, Page 6

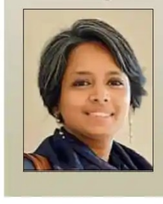
HC lifts stay on Dharmasthala case



The high court on Wednesday vacated the interim stay on proceedings in the FIR in the Dharmasthala mass burials case. Justice Mohammad Nawaz, however, said the interim order directing authorities not to harass the petitioners Girish Mattannavar, Mahesh Shetty Thimarody, T Jayant and Vittala Gowda will continue.

P 4

Infosys Prize for B'luru scientist



The Infosys Science Foundation announced six winners for the Infosys Prize 2025 on Wednesday. Bengaluru scientist Anjana Bhadrinarayanan is among the six winners. Anjana is an Associate Professor at the National Centre for Biological Sciences. Winners will receive a gold medal, a citation, and a cash prize of $1 lakh.

P 6

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Govt to allow stilt plus 4 floors on 30x20 plots in Bengaluru

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka government has proposed amendments to the Zonal Regulations under the Revised Master Plan (RMP) 2015 for Bengaluru, allowing construction of stilt plus four floors on 30x20 sites without providing a setback on the rear side.

While the move is aimed at easing building norms for smaller plots, particularly in older residential areas, the notification has triggered concern as it is prone to misuse in the absence of strict enforcement of building norms in Bengaluru.

Under the new norms, the setback rules have been classified under three brackets for plots coming under the area of up to 4,000 sq metres. While no changes have been introduced for plots measuring above 150 square metres, smaller plots stand to benefit according to the draft notification issued by the Urban Development Department on November 11.

For instance, for plots up to 60 sqm, that is 30x20 sq ft sites, the front setback has been reduced to 0.75 metres while the rear setback has been completely removed. For plots up to 150 sqm, which include 30x40 sites, it will be 0.9 metres in the front and 0.7 metres on the sides.

The government has mandated that all buildings up to 15 metres high must comply with fire and life safety provisions under the National Building Code 2016.

▸ Regulations, Page 5

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Experts say HPV vaccination at 14 years can significantly reduce risk of cervical cancer

Paediatricians, gynaecs should add HPV to vaccine list

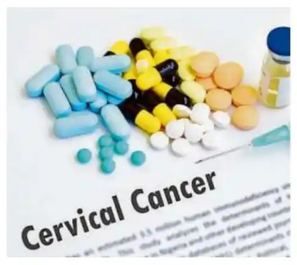
BENGALURU, DHNS

Cervical cancer, the second-most common cancer among women in India with more detections done annually, poses a risk beginning as early as 15 years.

Experts warn that as a primary preventive measure, the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine should be administered before the age of 14 for best results.

A workshop held by UNICEF in association with the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Mysore presented studies that proved both boys and girls should be vaccinated against HPV to reduce the risk of infection. While men cannot be affected with cervical cancer, they can be infected with HPV, which can further lead to penile and oropharyngeal cancers.

"Paediatricians and gynaecologists should encourage people to get vaccinated as they regularly see children and women and should include HPV vaccines in the vaccination list," said Dr Sridhar Prahlad Ryavanki, a UNICEF health specialist.



Symptoms

Highlighting the symptoms of cervical cancer, experts noted that persistent HPV infections, vaginal discharge, irregular vaginal bleeding, pelvic or abdominal bleeding, and post-coital vaginal bleeding require medical intervention.

In the advanced stage, the foul smell of the discharge and severe pelvic or abdominal pain should be immediately attended to, doctors said.

Doctors explained that engaging in sexual activity before the age of 18 doubles the risk of cervical cancer. "Having multiple sexual partners increases the risk multi-fold depending on the number of partners," said Dr Ryavanki.

Full-term pregnancies before the age of 17, a higher number of pregnancies, tobacco and alcohol addiction, obesity, continuous use of oral contraceptives, and a family history of cervical cancer increase the chances of cancer, he added.

Three stages

In the primary prevention stage, along with vaccines, age-appropriate education about safe sex and tobacco use is important.

While men cannot be affected with cervical cancer, they can be infected with Human Papillomavirus (HPV), which can further lead to penile and oropharyngeal cancers.

In the secondary stage, screening with high-performance tests, followed by immediate medical intervention, is crucial.

In tertiary prevention, surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and palliative care are followed, the doctors said.

GRT Jewellers launches Gold Exchange Mela

GRT Jewellers has announced its much-awaited Gold Exchange Mela - an exclusive opportunity for you to bring in your old gold and receive an additional Rs 150 per gram on the exchange value. This limited-period offer gives you the perfect chance to exchange your old ornaments and bring home new, stunning jewellery from GRT Jewellers for weddings and celebrations.

G R 'Anand,' Ananthapadmanabhan, Managing Director, GRT Jewellers, said, "The best time for old gold exchange is now. With our Gold Exchange Mela, you can enjoy extra value and make your celebrations even more special."

G R Radhakrishnan, Managing Director, GRT Jewellers, added, "With the Gold Exchange Mela, you can exchange your old gold for exquisite new designs made for weddings and celebrations. Along with this, we're delighted to offer the GRT Golden Eleven Flexi Plan - a monthly jewellery purchase plan with no wastage (VA) up to 18 per cent. It allows you to enjoy freedom from gold price fluctuations, with flexible options based on weight or value."

Established in 1964, GRT Jewellers has grown into one of India's most trusted jewellery brands, known for its craftsmanship, design excellence and timeless values. With exquisite collections of gold, diamonds, platinum, silver and gemstones, the brand has earned the trust of generations. Today, GRT Jewellers has over 65 showrooms across south India and Singapore, continuing to blend artistry with authenticity while upholding its commitment to the communities it serves.

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CITY WEATHER

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.8°C
Minimum	19.4°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 am)	67%
Sunset (Nov 13)	5:51 pm
Sunrise (Nov 14)	6:17 am
Moonrise	--:-- am
Moonset	12:45 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

IISc staffers arrested for diverting Rs 1.94 crore meant for students

BENGALURU, DHNS

Sadashivanagar police arrested three people for allegedly misappropriating around Rs 1.94 crore meant for foreign travel of students of Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

The arrested are V Soundarya and R Deepika, both 25, temporary secretarial assistants at the institution, police said.

Police acted on a complaint by Capt Sridhar Warrier, Registrar, on October 31. The complaint stated the two women had forged approval orders for advance funds meant for students' foreign travel.

They allegedly edited approval documents, changed students' bank account details, and diverted Rs 1,94,33,700 in several instalments to accounts of relatives and acquaintances, misappropriating funds and committing criminal breach of trust and cheating, officials said.

After a probe, on November 2, the two women were arrested from their homes in Hesarghatta and Yeshwantpur. Police said they confessed during interrogation.

"They admitted to committing the offence for quick financial gain. They disclosed transferring embezzled funds to 16 bank accounts of relatives and friends, and using the money to buy real estate, gold ornaments, and other valuables," police said in a statement.

On November 9, the third suspect, Sachin Rao, 25, was arrested in Arakere, Bannerghatta Road. He also confessed, police said, adding he did not work at IISc, but was linked to the suspects and benefited from the fraud.

"Between November 8 and 10, investigators recovered assets worth Rs 1 crore, including two plots of land valued at Rs 70–80 lakh, 121 grams of gold ornaments worth Rs 15 lakh, and Rs 11 lakh in cash. A Maruti Suzuki Brezza valued at Rs 10 lakh was impounded," the statement said.

Tech glitch hits Yellow Line trains

BENGALURU, DHNS: Metro train services on the Yellow Line faced disruptions for several hours on Wednesday morning due to a technical snag.

The issue was resolved at 8.47 am and all train services were restored on the Yellow Line, the BMRCL said.

Ranjith AR, a passenger, wrote on X that his train at BTM Layout was delayed by 11 minutes, and there was no proper announcement.

The 19.15-km metro corridor has faced nearly half dozen technical glitches since it opened on August 11, frustrating commuters already burdened with low frequency.

The BMRCL is currently operating only five trains on the Yellow Line with a 15-minute frequency and expects to induct three more by December end, improving frequency to 10 minutes.

IN THE CITY

GENERAL

Book release: 'Edeya Pada' by R Sunandamma; Hemalata Mahishi and N Gayatri to participate; Karnataka Chitrakala Parishad, Kumara Krupa Road; 4.30 pm.

CULTURAL

'Santhavani' film festival: Screening of movie 'Santha Shishunala Sharifa'; Girish Karnad, Sridhar to take part; ESV auditorium, Bharathiya Vidya bhavan, RC Road; 4 pm.

Play: 'Bunadi' and 'Beralge Koral'; Organised by Kalasagara; Nayana Auditorium, JC Road; 5 pm.

EPFO awareness campaign on employee enrolment

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Regional Office, Koramangala, organised an awareness camp on Tuesday at Optival Health Solutions Pvt Ltd (MedPlus) on the Employees Enrolment Campaign (EEC) as part of the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yogjna (PM-VBRY).

S Manjunath, Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner, explained to employees and employer representatives the key provisions, eligibility criteria and benefits of the schemes under the campaign.

'Expand EPF coverage'

He emphasised the importance of ensuring that all eligible employees are properly registered under the EPF scheme and encouraged establishments to use this opportunity to extend social security coverage to the maximum number of employees and to avoid penalties.

He clarified employees' queries regarding registration, Universal Account Number (UAN) activation, and contribution procedures.

PUBLIC NOTICE - E-AUCTION
RELIABLE CASHEW COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED IN LIQUIDATION (RCCPL)
under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016

E-AUCTION
Sale of Assets under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
Dates E-Auction: 04.12.2025 and 05.12.2025

Pursuant to the Order of the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai vide its order dated 09.08.2024 in the matter of Reliable Cashew Company Private Limited (In Liquidation), the undersigned is inviting bids for sale of assets of RCCPL as a going concern sale and/or sale of the assets owned by RCCPL forming part of the liquidation estate under section 35(f) of IBC, 2016 read with Regulation 32(e) and Regulation 32A of IBBI (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016. The said Assets will be sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS ", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" and "NO RECOURSE BASIS".**

The Sale will be done by the undersigned through the E-Auction platform at the web portal https://ibbi.baanknet.com/eauction-ibbi/home Brief particulars of the sale are as follows:

Set of Assets	Assets	Reserve Price (In INR)	EMD Amount (In INR)
	Category A-Sale of Corporate Debtor as a Going Concern Date and Time of e-auction: 04.12.2025 at 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon		
Asset Set 1	Sale of Corporate Debtor as going Concern including non-core assets (under Regulation 32(e) read with Regulation 32A) of Liquidation Process Regulations Specific exclusion: I. Cash and cash equivalents, other bank balances ii. Proceeds from ongoing litigations	**10.61 Crores**	**1.061 Crores**
	Category B -Sale of Corporate Debtor as a Going Concern (In case no bids are received for auction under Category A) Date and Time of e-auction: 04.12.2025 at 01.00 PM to 02.00 PM		
Asset Set 2	Sale of Corporate Debtor as going concern excluding non-core assets (under Regulation 32(e) read with Regulation 32A) of Liquidation Process Regulations Specific exclusion: i. Cash and cash equivalents, other bank balances ii. Non-Core assets of the Corporate Debtor as mentioned in Category 'D'. iii. Proceeds from ongoing litigations	**5.44 Crores**	**0.544 Crores**
	Category C -Sale of Corporate Debtor as a Going Concern (In case no bids are received for auction under Category A and B) Date and Time of e-auction:04.12.2025 at 03.00 PM to 04.00 PM		
Asset Set 3	Sale of Corporate Debtor as going concern excluding non-core assets and movable assets at leased premises in Tamil Nadu(under Regulation 32(e) read with Regulation 32A) of Liquidation Process Regulations Specific exclusion: i. Cash and cash equivalents, other bank balances ii. Non-Core assets of the Corporate Debtor as mentioned in Category 'D'. iii. Proceeds from ongoing litigations	**4.84 Crores**	**0.484 Crores**
	Category D -Sale of Non-core assets (only land parcels) (In case no bids are received for auction under Category A) Date and Time of e-auction: 04.12.2025 at 05.00 PM to 06.00 PM		
Asset Set 4	All the piece and parcel of a commercial plot at Sy No. 37-1, measuring 65.50 cents situated in Marakada Village, Mangaluru Taluk within Mangaluru City Corporation in the Registration Sub-district of Mangaluru, Karnataka	**87 Lakhs**	**8.70 Lakhs**
Asset Set 5	All the piece and parcel of six commercial Plots No.15,16,17,24,25, and 26 admeasuring 14,081.65 sq feet, situated in Bangra kuloor, Mangaluru	**2.03 Crores**	**0.203 Crores**
Asset Set 6	All the piece and parcel of a commercial plot at R.S.No.110/3, measuring 3.17 Acres situated in Bramhawar, Udupi	**2.50 Crores**	**0.250 Crores**
	Category E Sale of Movable Assets at leased premises (only if no bids are received from Asset Category A or B or C) Date and Time of e-auction: 05.12.2025 at 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon		
Asset Set 7	Plant and Machinery together with a Vehicle located at D. No, 12/92 and 12/93, Padavu Post, Shakti Nagar, Kulshekar, Mangaluru, Karnataka	**49.00 Lakhs**	**4.90 Lakhs**
Asset Set 8	Plant and Machinery located at Sy.No 209/1 with D. No. 50/4A & 4B, Gingee Road, Thiruvamathur Village, Vikravandi Taluk, Villupuram, Tamil Nadu	**56.00 Lakhs**	**5.60 Lakhs**
Asset Set 9	Plant and Machinery together with Vehicles located at Sy. No. 261/6 and 267/2, Kattandikuppam, Panruti, Cuddalore District Tamil Nadu	**27.00 Lakhs**	**2.70 Lakhs**
	Category F Sale of assets individual units (Movable and immovable properties) (In case no bids are received for auction under Category A or B or C) Date and Time of e-auction: 05.12.2025 at 01.00 PM to 02.00 PM		
Asset Set 10	**Industrial Property** (Movable and immovable assets) All the piece and parcels of the land measuring 100 cents, situated at, S.No.291/9P1, Kolalgiri, Uppoor Village, Udupi Taluk, Karnataka together with building, plant and machinery, furniture & fixtures, and vehicles.	**1.95 Crores**	**0.195 Crores**
	Category G-Sale of movable Assets (In case no bids are received for auction under Asset Set 10) Date and Time of e-auction: 05.12.2025 at 03.00 PM to 04.00 PM		
Asset Set 11	**Machineries and movable Assets** Machineries at S.No.291/9P1, Kolalgiri, Uppoor Village, Udupi Taluk, Karnataka along with all movable assets and vehicles	**32.00 Lakhs**	**3.20 Lakhs**
	Category H Sale of Immovable Assets (E-auction only if Asset set 11 gets bids and results in a successful auction) Date and Time of e-auction: 05.12.2025 at 05.00 PM to 06.00 PM		
Asset Set 12	**Immovable Asset (Land & Building)** All the piece and parcels of the land measuring 100 cents, situated at, S.No.291/9P1, Kolalgiri, Uppoor Village, Udupi Taluk , Karnataka together with building	**1.64 Crores**	**0.164 Crores**

1. This Sale Notice shall be read with the Complete 'e-Auction Process Information Document' (Process Document) containing details of the Assets, eligibility, E-Auction Bid Form etc which is available at https://ibbi.baanknet.com/eauction-ibbi/home or can contact the Liquidator for further details.
2. Please note that in case the E-Auction for **Asset Category A or B or C** does not materialise for want of bidders etc, the assets shall be sold separately as per the above Table. The liquidator reserves the right to cancel the e-auction of any or all Assets Set under any or all category(ies) and /or set of assets being sold in the e-auction. The sale of Assets under this category i.e. going concern sale is subject to approval of the Adjudicating Authority.
3. Interested bidders for the respective Category(ies) and/or Set of Asset(s) are required to submit the eligibility documents and EMD on or before **01.12.2025** as provided in the Process Document through the electronic platform only
4. The Liquidator reserves the right to amend the key terms of the sale process including timelines for any or all Category(ies) and/or Set of Assets(s) being sold in the e-auction, to the extent permissible under the applicable laws and regulations. Any information about the amendments/ extensions of any of the timelines with respect to the sale process timelines for any or all category(ies) and/or Set of Assets (s) will be available on the e-auction website and communicated to the Eligible/Qualified/Successful Bidder(s).
5. Prospective bidders shall deposit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) through the Baanknet auction platform only. If the bidder is found ineligible, EMD shall be liable to be forfeited.
6. Nothing contained herein shall constitute a binding offer or commitment for sale of assets of the Company including Sale of the Company as a whole, on a going concern basis.

Please scan the QR code below to download a Teaser Document.

Date: 12.11.2025
Place: Chandigarh

Sd/-
Ravindra Beleyur
Liquidator
Reliable Cashew Company Private Limited in Liquidation
'428,19th B Cross, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 11
email:Reliable_Cashew_CIRP@beleyur.com
Phone: 080 26540193 Mobile: +91 94481 46963

DOCUMENT LOST

This is inform the general public that I, **PUSHPAVATHI B.** W/o H P Amarnath lost original documents of my site sale deed No. **YAN 1-15508-2005-06, C D No. YAND174 on 04-02-2025** at Sanjayanagar for this my husband H.P. AMARNATH is already given complaint in e-lost web of Bangalore city police, last Report No. 1462342/2025

- Deponent

SBI State Bank of India
Regional Business Office - 4 Peenya
Adminstrative Office 2,3rdFloor, SBI K.G Road Complex
Bengaluru – 560009

PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE

State Bank of India Invites offers from owners/Power of Attorney holders for premises on lease rental basis for Commercial / Office use having carpet area of about 278 Sq. mt.(3000 Sqft +/- 25%) preferably at Ground Floor for SBI BASAVESHWARANAGAR 8TH MAIN BRANCH to be located on main road within a radius of 1.00 KM from existing premises at NO.485, 8th Main, III Stage, 4TH Block, BASAVESWARANAGAR, Bengaluru, Pin – 560079.
The format for submission of the technical bid containing detailed parameters, terms and conditions and price bid can be downloaded from SBI website www.sbi.co.in under SBI in the news/ Procurement news from 12.11.2025 to 02.12.2025.The offers containing the technical bid and price bid shall be submitted separately in two different sealed covers to SBI Regional Buisness Office-4 Peenya, Administrative Office-2, 3rd Floor, SBI Building, K.G Road, Bengaluru-560009 on or before 3.30PM on 02.12.2025. Brokers will not be entertained.

Place : Bengaluru
Date :12.11.2025

Sd/
Regional Manager
Regional Business Office IV, AO 2

CORRIGENDUM AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO. EL/29/RT2-12_2025/K/846; DATED: 18-10-2025

Due to technical reason, corrigendum has been issued above tender and the closing date & time has been extended from **10-11-2025** on **15:00** hrs. to **14-11-2025** on **15:00** hrs. Details are follows:

Tender No.	Name of the work	Remarks of Corrigendum
RT2-12_2025	At Katihar Division-Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of UPS & Inverter of different make and capacities Installed at PRS/UTS and service building/LC gates at different stations/ locations over Katihar division for two (02) years.	Tender closing date & time has been extended to **14-11-2025** on **15:00** hours.

All other terms and conditions of above tender will remain unchanged.

Sr. DEE (G&Chg.), Katihar

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
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igtr
Ministry of MSME Govt. of India
Government Certificate Course on
GENERATIVE AI
FOR EVERYONE
Course Timing 1.30 pm -5.00 pm (ONLINE) Course Dates: Date-22,23,Nov.29,30 Nov.2025 Course Duration- 4 days
Email ID: trg@igtr-indore.com website: igtr-indore.com Phone: (0731) 4210700/709
Course Fees : 3000/-+18 % GST(Fees are not refundable)
HANDS ON EXERCISES & LEARNING
content: Introduction to Generative AI, Different Generative AI Architectures used in industry, Foundation models, Prompt engineering, Building LLM-powered applications, Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG), Vector embeddings and databases (FAISS, Chroma), Lang Chain work flows, LLM agents using Lang Chain, Fine-tuning,GenAI app Deployment, Langsmith Monitoring, Responsible AI practices. Learn every concept through real-world use cases, guided labs, and end to end projects. Ideal for developers, data scientists, and AI enthusiasts ready to build next-gen intelligent systems
Who Can Atend: Students, AI enthusiasts, Working Professionals seeking to transition careers or upskill in AI-related fileds, individuals starting a career in AI, and those looking to broaden their skills through cross-skilling.
Scan QR Code for Registration
After Successful Completion Certificate Will be Issued
Contact-8007765693,9403566219, 9584817708

JOB VACANCY : DIRECTOR FOR GOLDEN PALM STATION CANTEEN, BANGALORE (KARNATAKA)

1. Applications are invited from Retired Brigadier (or equivalent) / Retired Colonel (or equivalent) who have commanded Unit/ Battalion (or equivalent) / Independent Sub Unit (or equivalent) for the post of Director of Golden Palm Station Canteen, Bangalore (Karnataka) latest by **25 Nov 2025.**
2. The employment will be for 11 (eleven) months on contractual basis. Interested candidates may visit GPC Website **gpcscblr.co.in** for details of format for submitting Applications-cum-Bio Data Form, Med Fitness Cert, Discipline Vigilance (DV Ban)/ No Cases of Corruption was reported against the applicant during the entire service.
3. The maximum age of the applicant should not exceed 63 years as on the last date of receipt of application. The Retired officers with exposure/ experience of managing Unit Run Canteens(URCs) will be preferred.
4. Applicants are requested to apply with a copy of Record of Service directly to the Canteen Officer, Golden Palm Canteen Cell, C/o HQ K&K Sub Area, Cubbon Road, Bangalore - 01 with full address and mobile No, through Regd Post or by mail ID No : **gpccellkksa@gmail.com** by **25 Nov 2025.**

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

Thank you infant Jesus for your blessings and all the favours received
- Lokanath & family

Thanksgiving

Thank you Infant Jesus for your blessings and all the favours received. Sorry for the delay
- Dr. Shobhana R. Thakrar

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are undertaking a title investigation of the immovable properties more fully described in the '**Schedule**' hereto and is hereinafter referred to as the '**Schedule Property**'. The present owner of the Schedule Property i.e., M/s SBR Ventures, a partnership firm, ('**Owner**') represented by its managing partner T. Venugopal, has represented that the Owner is absolute owner of the Schedule Property with full and unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owner, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Property or submit their objections, if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof to support such claim/s or objections and must be delivered to us at the address given below within a period of **15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received within the stipulated time, it shall be deemed that no person other than the Owner has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

(Description of the Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of immovable properties situated at Belathuru Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded as follows:

Sl. No.	Survey Number	Total Extent Acres	Total Extent Guntas	East by	West by	North by	South by
1.	6/4	0	4.08	Survey No. 6/7;	Survey No. 6/1;	Survey Nos. 6/3 and 6/5;	Survey No. 7/2;
2.	7/2	0	18	Survey No. 7/3;	Survey No. 7/1;	Survey No. 6/4;	Road;
3.	7/3	0	12	Survey No. 7/4;	Survey No. 7/2;	Survey No. 6/7;	Road;
4.	7/4	0	34	Survey No. 7/5;	Survey No. 7/3;	Survey No. 6/11;	Road;
5.	7/6	0	10	Survey No. 7/2;	Road;	Survey No. 7/1;	Road;
6.	7/8	0	5	Survey No. 7/9;	Private Property;	Survey No. 7/4;	Survey No. 7/12;
7.	7/9	0	5	Survey No. 7/10;	Survey No. 7/8;	Survey No. 7/4;	Survey No. 7/12;
8.	7/10	0	5	Survey No. 7/11;	Survey No. 7/9;	Survey No. 7/4;	Survey No. 7/12;
9.	7/11	0	5	Private Property;	Survey No. 7/10;	Survey No. 7/4;	Survey No. 7/12;

Sd/-
MR. SRINIVAS B.R., Partner
DSK Legal
Prestige Loka, No. 201, 2nd Floor, No. 7/1 & 7/7,
Brunton Road, Bengaluru – 560025, Tel: 080-69548770

Date: 13.11.2025
Place : Bengaluru

ALL IS NOT FAIR IN THE FARES

Survey reveals widespread dark patterns in cab aggregator apps

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

A new survey has revealed that 8 in 10 app-based taxi users in India report the presence of dark patterns, such as bait-and-switch tactics, forced action, nagging, and interface interference on cab aggregator platforms.

The survey was conducted by Local Circles, based on 94,000 responses from users of a taxi aggregator service across 282 districts.

It specifically examined dark patterns identified by the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) in app-based taxi services. The survey revealed that 59% of users have encountered hidden charges, in addition to taxes, that were not disclosed upfront.

While the Government of India had recently issued a warning regarding drip pricing to online platforms, ride aggregators continue to add hidden costs to transactions.

An industry insider shared that most platforms have dedicated teams for researching dark patterns.

"The sector is extremely competitive, and they have become masters of finding loopholes. We have seen what happened with bike taxis and the tipping issue. Uber and Rapido cleverly launched a non-profit service for bike taxis. While it is not a cab aggregator, Zepto has mastered dark patterns; many other platforms follow what the company does," he told *DH*.

The survey was conducted by Local Circles, based on 94,000 responses from users of a taxi aggregator service across 282 districts. DH FILE PHOTO

Official for review of rules

A Transport Department official believes the rules governing cab-aggregator platforms need to be re-examined. "While we have the rules which were established in 2016, these only govern the basics. Because we don't have regulations which look into the nitty-gritty of the apps' workings, it becomes difficult to challenge the dark patterns in court," he said.

Yogeesh AM, Transport Commissioner, urged commuters to contact the Transport Department with complaints regarding the dark patterns used on aggregator platforms. "So far, we've not received any complaints. But if we receive complaints backed by proof, we will look into it," he told *DH*.

In addition, 84% of users reported encountering interface interference, such as important options like 'cancel ride' being hidden or difficult to find.

"App interface updates often exacerbate this issue, making it harder for less tech-savvy users, especially older adults, to navigate," said Ruqaiya S, a JP Nagar resident.

About 86% of app-based taxi users surveyed said they had experienced a bait-and-switch tactic, where the waiting time shown before booking was significantly shorter than the actual time it took for the driver to arrive.

Similarly, 78% of respondents reported encountering a nagging approach on these platforms, with repeated prompts such as requests for tips appearing frequently.

Adani, Dilip Buildcon among bidders for tunnel road project

RVNL has experience in tunnelling on Himalayas

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Four major infrastructure companies — Adani Group, Dilip Buildcon, Vishwa Samudra Engineering, and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) — have bid for Bengaluru's 16.74-km tunnel road project connecting Central Silk Board and Hebbal.

The response from top firms has given the Rs 17,800-crore project a fresh push, even as it faces mounting opposition from civic groups and BJP leaders.

Officials said all four firms submitted bids before the November 11 deadline, the fourth extension granted by Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE), the agency in charge of the project.

RVNL, a government-backed entity, has experience in tunnelling over 200 km in the Himalayan terrain for a broad-gauge railway line. Adani Group and Vishwa Samudra have undertaken large highway projects. Dilip Buildcon is a long-standing name in road construction.

The response — a first for Bengaluru's municipal corporation — shows the companies are serious, as bidding conditions required a bank guarantee of Rs 44 crore.

The response — a first for Bengaluru's municipal corporation — shows the companies are serious, as bidding conditions required a bank guarantee of Rs 44 crore.

In July, B-SMILE invited bids, splitting the project into two packages: one between Hebbal and Seshadri Road, the other extending south to Central Silk Board (Madiwala).

Proposed under the public-private partnership (PPP) model, the project will have 40 per cent funding from the government and 60 per cent (about Rs 10,000 crore) from private firms.

Tender conditions allow toll collection rights for 30 years, extendable by 10, plus six acres for commercial development.

The government will raise about Rs 9,300 crore as a loan to pay its share.

"This is a dream project for the youth of the city," Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, a vocal proponent, said. "Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has praised the tunnel project. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also offered suggestions. There are tunnel projects in Pune and Mumbai, but opposition only for Bengaluru's tunnel project. All Bengaluru MLAs had agreed to the tunnel project, but now they are opposing it. We are open to suggestions," he said.

Bengaluru's topography, he said, is rocky.

"Hence, we decided to have an underground metro line in the past. No one spoke against the metro going underground," he said.

His defense runs contrary to concerns raised by urban mobility experts, including government-linked bodies such as the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) and an expert committee led by Namma Metro's executive director, who cited lack of traffic studies and geotechnical investigations before starting the project.

Hosakerehalli flyover opens for trial; commuters relieved

Final works pending, say civic officials

BENGALURU, DHNS

Commuters on the Hosakerehalli stretch were surprised on Wednesday as Bengaluru West City corporation opened the long-pending Hosakerehalli flyover on a trial basis.

Banashankari Traffic Police said the flyover will now ease traffic and bring relief to hundreds struggling to navigate the stretch.

"What was less than a kilometre between PES University and Nayandahalli Junction would take a long time during peak hours. The flyover has made this journey smooth. Riders can now drive through the stretch," said traffic personnel.

Corporation officials said a few final works, such as line marking and sign boards, were pending.

Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao directed officials to complete the pending works at the earliest.

The flyover's opening brought relief to commuters, especially students travelling to PES University.

Some commuters said the flyover could shift bottlenecks, while others felt it would offer relief even if the drive is not completely smooth.

"Narrow roads and ongoing works had made it difficult to commute. Opening the flyover has provided relief for daily commuters," said R Hanumanth, a resident of Girinagar.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru in-charge minister DK Shivakumar is expected to officially open the flyover soon.

GBA boss M Maheshwar Rao interacts with officials during the inspection rounds. PHOTO: GBA

GBA chief goes on late-night inspection of road works

BENGALURU, DHNS: M Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), inspected ongoing infrastructure works in the city from 11.30 pm on Tuesday to 2.45 am.

Projects reviewed included white-topping on Hennur–Bagalur Road, asphalting on Outer Ring Road, Hosakerehalli flyover, and the JC Road white-topping project.

The contractor, affiliated to the ruling Congress party, has delayed white-topping on the Hennur–Bagalur Road, inconveniencing motorists and shopkeepers. Some have demanded the firm be blacklisted for poor maintenance during construction.

During the inspection, the chief commissioner instructed that traffic be restricted on a 1.2-km stretch from Poorna Prajna School to Gubbi Cross, allowing two-way movement on the other half. The work is to be completed within 25 days. He said similar phased restrictions of 1-km segments should follow as approved by traffic police.

He inspected the Hosakerehalli flyover, now open for trial runs. The chief commissioner instructed officials to finish minor pending works such as line marking and signage at the earliest.

White-topping from Minerva Circle to Town Hall (1 km) on JC Road is in progress. Half the road is open to traffic, and the remaining 250 metres will be finished within four days, he told reporters.

> "What was less than a kilometre between PES University and Nayandahalli Junction would take a long time during peak hours. The flyover has made this journey smooth. Riders can now drive through the stretch.
> **BANASHANKARI TRAFFIC POLICE**

Bengaluru South city corporation reclaims encroached land

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru South city corporation has cleared encroachments and recovered public land valued at Rs 10 crore.

According to a statement from the corporation, the action followed a public complaint submitted to the Karnataka Lokayukta.

"It was found that unauthorised sheds had been constructed on survey nos 2, 6/2, and 4, covering about 6,000 sqft, along the 2nd and 3rd main roads in Uttarahalli ward, thereby encroaching upon public road space," the statement said.

During the operation, the illegal structures built across the public road were demolished, restoring unhindered access for public use.

In total, about 6,000 sqft of land — estimated to be worth Rs 10 crore — was reclaimed in the Uttarahalli sub-division, Arehalli village, under the limits of Uttarahalli ward.

The corporation said it would also initiate legal action against those responsible for the encroachment.

BDA allots 784 alternative sites for Arkavathi allottees

BENGALURU, DHNS: Over 784 people who were unable to take possession of their sites in Arkavathi Layout finally heaved a sigh of relief on Monday, as the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) allotted them alternate plots in the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout.

Manivannan

These allottees had been struggling for nearly two decades after the sites they had paid for either went missing, were denotified, or became unavailable due to layout redesigns or court orders in favour of original landowners.

Earlier this week, the BDA allotted alternate sites through what it described as a computerised randomisation process.

BDA Commissioner P Manivannan said the allotment was completed in just 15 minutes.

"The BDA solved a 20-year-old problem of giving alternate sites to Arkavathi Layout allottees in 15 minutes through a computerised randomisation process. What's more, the process was telecast live on YouTube," he said in a post on X.

"Now, all allottees no longer need to approach anyone. The list has been published on the website, and they can proceed to complete the sale deed immediately," he added.

With this exercise, the authority has reportedly provided alternate sites to all affected Arkavathi allottees. Officials said a few pending cases would be resolved based on recommendations of the Justice KN Keshavanarayana Commission.

Man tied up, handed over to police for molesting differently abled woman

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 30-year-old man was tied up and handed over to the Adugodi police after he allegedly sexually harassed a differently abled woman, officials said on Wednesday.

The arrested man, Vikram, is a resident of LR Nagar near Koramangala. He was unemployed.

Police said on November 10, the 21-year-old survivor's mother, a house help, returned from a function to find her daughter frightened and unclothed. She found Vikram hiding behind a door, wearing only his shorts.

Vikram tried to flee, but was caught by people in the area, tied up and handed over to the police.

Adugodi police registered a case under BNS sections 75 (sexual harassment), 76 (assault or use of criminal force to a woman with intent to disrobe), 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), and 333 (house trespass).

The suspect was produced before the court and remanded in judicial custody, police officials said.

College girl harassed, whistled at in Indiranagar

BENGALURU, DHNS: An 18-year-old college girl was allegedly whistled at and sexually harassed by an unknown man in Indiranagar, police said on Wednesday.

The incident occurred near Sapna Book House, CMH Road Signal on 80 Feet Road, around 2.50 pm on November 10, police said.

The first-year BCA student had just gotten off a bus at 80 Feet Road and was walking home when the man on a white scooter whistled at her. When she turned around, she saw him staring at her.

But when she walked over to confront him, he backed away. Later, when he turned around, she scolded him and gestured as if to hit him.

As she resumed walking home, the man reappeared on his scooter and honked at her. When she turned around, he made an obscene gesture with his fist and rode away.

Based on the woman's complaint, Indiranagar police have registered a case of sexual harassment under Section 75 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and are searching for the suspect.

PATRONS

Rao Bahadur Shri Rudragoudaru C. Artal
Rao Bahadur Sardar Shri V. G. Desai
Rao Bahadur Shri V. A. Anigol

SAPTARISHIS (FOUNDERS)

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Shri M. R. Sakhare M.A., T.D.(Lond.)
Shri B. B. Mamadapur B.A.
Shri H. F. Kattimani B.A.
Shri P. R. Chikodi B.A.
Shri B. S. Hanchinal B.A., B.T.
Shri V. V. Patil B.Agri.

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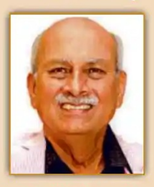
Director, Vivekananda Institute of Human Excellence
Ramakrishna Math, Hyderabad

Chief Guest

Dr. M. R. Jayaram
Chairman, Gokula Education Foundation and Chancellor, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bengaluru

Felicitation by



Dr. Prabhakar Kore
Chairman,
KLE Society, Belagavi

Presided over by

Shri Mahantesh Koujalagi
President,
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13TH NOVEMBER Thursday - 11.00 am 2025

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KSRTC launches new flybus service from KIA to Davangere

BENGALURU, DHNS: The KSRTC has launched a new direct Flybus service between Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) and Davangere. It was flagged off on Wednesday by Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy.

The Volvo seater bus departs from the airport at 12.45 pm and 10 am daily, and from Davangere at 8 am and 5 pm. During the five-hour journey, the bus will pass through Satellite Town Ring Road, Doddaballapur bypass, Dobbspet, Tumakuru bypass and Chitradurga bypass.

From the airport, the bus service will cost Rs 1,250 to Davangere, Rs 980 to Chitradurga and Rs 400 to Tumakuru.

Additionally, from November 15 onwards, the KSRTC will provide free Nandini snack boxes procured to all Flybus passengers. Each snack box will contain a water bottle, flavoured milk, cookies, cake and a savoury snack (kodubale).

First launched in August 2013 to Mysuru, the Flybus service connects the Bengaluru airport to various cities in southern Karnataka to help air passengers.

The KSRTC now operates nine Flybus services to Mysuru and two each to Madikeri, Kundapura and Davangere, making 44 trips and ferrying 1,050 passengers daily. It earns Rs 90 per km. A Volvo sleeper bus (Ambaari Utsav) runs on the Kundapura routes.

'Those against reducing passing marks driven by vindictive mindset'

INTERVIEW

Our priority is to fill vacancies for teachers at govt schools, says Madhu Bangarappa

Notwithstanding an official notification by the state government on reducing the passing mark from 35 to 33 for SSLC and PU examinations, grumblings about the decision's 'impact on assessment' continue to dominate any discussion surrounding the subject. In an exclusive interview with *DH*'s **Rashmi Belur**, Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said that a vindictive mindset drove those opposing the move. Excerpts:

Many people, including Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, have objected to reducing the passing marks from 35 to 33...

The debate on reducing passing marks from 35 to 33 has been ongoing for some years now. Those two marks are crucial for lakhs of children; if they fail by a margin of two marks, they will end up becoming dropouts. You need an SSLC marks card even for a Driving Licence today. It's easy to question the underrepresentation of people from Karnataka in several jobs, but this is because aspirants must have compulsorily passed the SSLC exam to be eligible for such jobs. The decision to reduce the passing marks was taken after extensive deliberations and consultation with all stakeholders.

Those opposing this move are motivated by selfish reasons, and their attitude is reflective of a vindictive mindset; they have misled even Basavaraj Horatti. In most of the North Indian and Northeastern states, the passing marks are 33 or less. Even the Administrative Reforms Commission had recommended bringing down the passing marks long ago.

Was any comparative study undertaken before taking the decision?

There is no need for a comparative study. In fact, CBSE and ICSE boards are following our lead when it comes to the introduction of moral education and the adoption of the three-exam policy.

Response from students, parents and teachers has been very positive. It has given them confidence. Of the 708 responses we received from the public on reducing the passing marks, 700 were in favour of the move, and only eight were opposed to it.

The introduction of the three-exam policy was criticised; even the teachers were opposed to it...

Within six months of taking charge as Education Minister, I was targeted for the sharp drop in the SSLC pass percentage in 2023. But I was not responsible for the poor show as I just took charge. That is when we rolled out the three-exam policy, and 1.16 lakh students who had failed the first exam cleared the second exam, and the dropout rate reduced. Unless you see the facts, you cannot move ahead. I was portrayed in a negative light, but I don't care. My work will speak for itself.

Madhu Bangarappa, Minister for School Education & Literacy

> The decision to reduce the passing marks was taken after extensive deliberations and consultation with all stakeholders. Those opposing this move are motivated by selfish reasons, and their attitude is reflective of a vindictive mindset; they have misled even Basavaraj Horatti.

Infrastructure remains a problem at government schools. How will you address this?

I am not denying the problem of poor infrastructure and insufficient teachers at government schools, but the situation is better today than it was before. Our priority is to hire teachers as quickly as we can. In rural areas, parents will send their children to schools without a roof, but will hesitate to send them if there are no teachers. I know that the condition of 3,000 schools is bad, and we are addressing the problem.

The recent decision to open a Karnataka Public School (KPS) in every Gram Panchayat has been criticised, with some claiming it might lead to closure of 25,000 schools...

Our government will not close even a single school; take my word for it. We want to open a KPS in every Gram Panchayat so we can compete with private schools. As part of our efforts to attract more students to KPS, we have decided to have English as the medium of instruction which is bilingual, integrate kindergarten, and offer free transportation to students. Among those opposing this decision are teachers at schools with just five students. Do you think the Asian Development Bank is blind to give us Rs 2,500 crore for the KPS schools? The bank is ready to give a further Rs 10,000 crore. We are not looking to close schools; rather, we are focused on improving facilities at government schools.

Enrolment at government schools continues to decrease each year...

We have plugged attrition from government schools by starting LKG and UKG classes, besides introducing English as the medium of instruction or adopting a bilingual policy. This is the only reason why parents want to admit their kids to private schools. In 2024, we sanctioned LKG and UKG classes at 1,008 schools, and within 40 days, 42,000 students had enrolled in these schools. This is what you call a masterstroke. Next year, we will have more students joining our LKG and UKG classes.

Mega database for startups, industries in quantum tech

State to have quantum ecosystem map like Switzerland

BENGALURU, DHNS

Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology N S Boseraju has directed officials to prepare a 'Karnataka Quantum Ecosystem Map' on the lines of Switzerland's globally accepted 'Swissnex Quantum Map'.

On Wednesday, chairing a meeting with Dr Angela Honegger, CEO & Consul General of Swissnex India, and senior officers of the department of science and technology at Vikasa Soudha, the minister emphasised the need for a comprehensive database of all institutions, startups and industries working in the field of quantum technology in the state.

The directive follows Boseraju's recent visit to Switzerland, where he participated in the Swissnex Quantum and GSDA conference, and held meetings with leading institutions like ETH Zurich and CERN to explore collaborations in quantum research and innovation.

"During my visit, I saw the state-of-the-art laboratories there and the excellent research their scientists are conducting in the field of quantum. I dream of establishing a similar ecosystem in Karnataka. A collaboration between the two countries will be very beneficial," the minister told *DH*.

Speaking at the meeting, Dr Angela noted that a similar mapping exercise would serve as a strategic bridge between India and Switzerland in fostering joint research and industrial exchange.

At the meeting, a proposal was discussed to establish a Karnataka–Swissnex joint desk to serve as a collaborative platform for research exchange, startup facilitation and policy alignment between Karnataka and Switzerland.

The meeting was attended by Sadashiva Prabhu (managing director, K-STePS), Prof Arindam Ghosh (Indian Institute of Science) and Rahul Kulshreshtha (head of innovation, Swissnex India).

D'sthala case: HC vacates interim stay on FIR proceedings

BENGALURU, DHNS

The high court on Wednesday vacated the interim order of stay on further proceedings in the FIR registered in the mass burials case in Dharmasthala.

Justice Mohammad Nawaz, however, said that the interim order with directions not to harass the petitioners - Girish Mattannavar, Mahesh Shetty Thimarody, T Jayant and Vittala Gowda - will continue.

The court modified the interim order after considering the statement of objections filed by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case.

On October 30, the court stayed the FIR pertaining to the Dharmasthala mass burials case, in which later the informant himself was arrested and named as the sole accused for falsification and conspiracy.

The court had passed the interim order since the petitioners raised a concern that the magistrate's permission in the instant case, which was initially for a cognizable offence under BNS section 211A, was not proper as it is bereft of any reasoning.

During the hearing on Wednesday, additional state public prosecutor (ASPP) B N Jagadeesha, on behalf of the SIT, said the magistrate's permission was in accordance with law. He submitted that there are serious and credible allegations against the petitioners and their associates.

Many of these allegations are independently corroborated through detailed field investigations carried out by the SIT based on circumstantial, evidence of credible witnesses and digital forensic evidence, the ASPP said, adding that challenging the proceedings which was initiated by the petitioners themselves, was a travesty of justice, and hence should be dismissed.

The FIR (crime number 39/2025) was registered for offence under section 211 A of BNS based on the statement by the informant that he had buried several bodies in and around Dharmasthala.

The SIT had carried out exhumation at 17 places in and around Dharmasthala and later found that these allegations were false.

In the detailed statement of objections filed by the ASPP on behalf of the SIT, it is stated that the executive magistrate exhibited due diligence and the exhumations were done to the complete satisfaction of the complainant, and his support team, which comprised lawyers.

The entire exhumation process is video-recorded. The SIT team supporting the effort took extreme care in the face of inclement weather, adverse topography to ensure that the excavations happened without a hitch.

It is further stated that the investigation revealed that all the serious allegations made by the informant (now accused) were false. It said the informant had produced a human skull while filing the complaint and claimed that it was of a female and that he exhumed it from a burial site approximately five to six months earlier.

However, forensic medical examination conducted by the Department of Forensic Medicine at KMC Hospital, Mangaluru and Victoria Hospital, Bengaluru said the skull was of a male individual approximately 20-30 years of age. A further examination of the skull is still on, and the report is awaited, the statement said.

On confronting these and other materials, the informant revealed on his own free volition that he had lodged the complaint and had made the statements as per the instructions and active connivance of the petitioners - Thimarody and others.

"Therefore, a request was duly sent to the magistrate to invoke the relevant provisions and seek permission to continue the investigation," the statement said.

It also said that the petitioners and their associates are fearful of the truth being revealed and are attempting to scuttle the investigation by filing one or the other writ petition.

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Loving you and missing you ever
Dr. Sreepriya Senthilvel
Dr. Roshni Senthilvel
Family & Friends

Red car linked to terror module traced

Terror, from Page 1

Investigators also claimed that Dr Umar had gone to a mosque on Asaf Ali Road, close to Ram Leela Maidan, where he allegedly stayed for nearly three hours, before heading to the Red Fort area in the afternoon.

However, officials indicated that the Monday's blast may not have been planned and could be accidental while a hastily assembled explosive device was being transported following the action against the "white collar module" in Faridabad. However, investigators have not ruled out other angles and are probing all options to find conclusive evidence.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), which took over the probe on Tuesday, has already formed a special team for probing the blast and inspected the spot. It has been on the ground assisting the Delhi Police since the blast on Monday evening before officially taking over the case.

Officials claimed that forensic experts have collected at least 40 samples from the blast site.

They also recovered cartridges from the spot. It is said that ammonium nitrate was detected in the samples besides another explosive. The second explosive, whose details were not immediately shared, appeared to be more powerful than ammonium nitrate, officials said.

In a related development, a preacher, Maulvi Ishtiyaq, who was staying in a rented house within the Al Falah University complex in Faridabad, was taken into custody by the Jammu and Kashmir Police. It was from his home that the police allegedly recovered more than 2,900 kilograms of explosives.

A car dealer was also detained by the Delhi Police's Special Cell soon after the blast. Identified as Amit, the owner of Royal Car Plaza, he was taken into custody from Faridabad Sector 37 where he has an office. Amit allegedly helped facilitate the sale of the i20 Hyundai car that exploded.

(With inputs from PTI)

LURE OF THE LUSH GREEN

Camels from the desert crane their necks to feast on lush green leaves of trees as they are taken out on a stroll by their keeper in Karwar.

Convocation of NITK

MANGALURU, DHNS: The annual convocation of the National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal, will be held at its new sports complex on November 15, NITK Deputy Director Prof Subhash C Yaragal said.

Cybercriminal held for impersonating Priyanka Upendra, conning Rs 1.65L

BENGALURU, DHNS: A cybercriminal from Bihar was arrested for illegally accessing actor Priyanka Upendra's WhatsApp account and cheating two of her friends and her son of a total of Rs 1.65 lakh by impersonating her, the police said on Wednesday. The arrested is Vikas, 30, from Nalanda, Bihar.

On September 15, Priyanka Upendra, the wife of popular Kannada actor Upendra Rao, filed a complaint with the Sadashivanagar police that an unidentified person called her, pretending to be a customer service executive, and made her dial *21*9279295167# on her phone to receive an OTP.

She then realised she lost access to her WhatsApp account, and two of her friends and her son had sent Rs 55,000 each, totalling Rs 1.65 lakh, to the impersonator.

"It was a coincidence that I received a call where the person claimed that some of the household goods I had ordered were due for delivery. I had actually ordered these items from an app, so I believed the call. My contacts received messages from my WhatsApp number asking for Rs 55,000 by stressing some urgency. Some, including my son, have even transferred it," she said previously.

Special team formed

Sadashivanagar police sought technical assistance from the Central Cybercrime Police. A special team was formed under Manoj Kumar, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Central Cybercrime Police Station.

The team unravelled the digital trail and zeroed in on Vikas. A team was dispatched to Nalanda to nab him. Vikas got wind of it and escaped to Delhi.

The team was further dispatched to Delhi, and on November 6, Vikas was arrested in Sonia Nagar. He was brought to Bengaluru on a transit remand and during interrogation confessed to having committed the offence with his accomplices, who remain at large.

"It was a call forwarding scam. The suspect made the victim enter the code on her phone, leading him to receive her OTPs. He used it to log in to the victim's WhatsApp account and impersonate her," a senior police officer told *DH*.

Nalanda, the new Jamtara?

The team of investigators learnt that in Nalanda, there was a well-oiled operation of over 100 people, especially young men, scamming the gullible. "This is similar to what was uncovered in the infamous Jamtara in Jharkhand a few years ago. There are many villages in northern India, where such operations exist," a police officer, who was part of the probe team, told DH.

Elections to GPs: HC notice to govt over SEC's PIL

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday ordered notice to the state government in a PIL filed by the State Election Commission (SEC) seeking directions to the government on the conduct of the elections to the 5,950 Gram Panchayats (GPs) across the state.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha directed the government advocate to take instructions while observing, "This is a serious issue".

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Change of Name
I, MIR ZAFIR HAIDER HUSSAIN S/O MIR DILAWER HUSSAIN residing at Alipur, Thondebhavi Hobli, Gowribidanur taluk, Chikkaballapur district, Karnataka have changed my name to MIR ZAFIR HAIDER vide affidavit dated 12.11.2025 before notary N.S. ASHOK KUMAR Gowribidanur.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Prabhulinga Manik Reddy,** residing at C-905, Aratt Requizza, Gollahalli Road, Electronic City Phase-1, Bengaluru-560 100, have changed my minor daughter's name from **Shriya** to **SHRIYA REDDY** vide affidavit dated 11.11.2025 before notary B.M. Chandrashekar. Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **SHRIYA REDDY** only

I, NEHAL, Residing at Flat 2162, Sobha Amethyst, Kannamangala, Bengaluru-560 115, have changed my Name to NEHAL BHARDWAJ, vide Affidavit dated 11-11-2025, sworn before Notary Veena. J. Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Laxmi,** residing at C-905, Aratt Requizza, Gollahalli Road, Electronic City Phase-1, Bengaluru-560 100, have changed my name to **LAXMI SIDDALINGAPPA** vide affidavit dated 11.11.2025 before notary B.M. Chandrashekar. Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **LAXMI SIDDALINGAPPA** only

ANNOUNCEMENT
I, **SANTHA,** Spouse of No. S/056155/89, Rank: Ex-NAIK, Subhasa Chandra Basavantappa Radder, residing at Sri Shiva Nilaya 05, 6th Cross, Diwator Nagar, Koppal District, Karnataka-583231, have changed my name to **SHANTHALA**
My Correct Date of Birth is 01-04-1962. It is hereby certified that my husband's name **Subhasa Chandra Basavantappa Radder and S.B. Reddy** refer to the same person only, affidavit dated: 05.11.2025, before notary C.S. Prasad, Bangalore.

I, B.V Triveni w/o D C Krishnamurthy Residing at No. 3, Sri Lakshmi Apartment, 14th A Cross, 11th main, Malleswaram, Bengaluru. Aadhar No. XXXXXXXX8999, Passport No. X9806221, have changed my name from Triveni K Murthy to B.V. Triveni vide affidavit dated 11/11/2025 before notary C. Srinivas, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Prabhulinga Manik Reddy,** residing at C-905, Aratt Requizza, Gollahalli Road, Electronic City Phase-1, Bengaluru-560 100, have changed my minor son's name from **Omkar** to **OMKAR REDDY** vide affidavit dated 11.11.2025 before notary B.M. Chandrashekar. Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **OMKAR REDDY** only

I SRINIVASA Mudala Mellahalli Honnaiah 1/128, Srinidhi Nilaya Gangamma layout Guddadahalli Bangalore 560032 have Changed My Name Srinivasa Mellahalli Honnaiah for all purposes

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PLAKUNNINMEL KUTTIYAT PRAMEELA,** residing at No. 4, Magnolia Enclave Neeladri Investment Layout, Doddathoguru, Electronics City, Bengaluru - 560100, have changed my name to **PRAMEELA SAJI,** vide affidavit dated 11-11-2025 sworn before Notary A.S.Narayana Reddy, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **PRAMEELA SAJI** only.

Lost

DOCUMENT LOST
I, **MEKAPATI SRIDEVI,** Residing at #66/2, 66/3 Siddapura Road, Opp. Balaji Temple, Nelluruhalli, Whitefield, Bengaluru, have lost my saledeeds
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No qualms, says DKS on Siddu as CM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Wednesday said he had no qualms about Chief Minister Siddaramaiah continuing in the top post, and claimed that there was unity in the party.

He was reacting to Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan's statement that Siddaramaiah would be CM until 2028. "What's wrong if (Siddaramaiah) is there (as CM)? I have no qualms. We're working together," he said. "We're all united. We continue to be united."

Earlier, Zameer said Shivakumar can become the CM in 2028. "Shivakumar has chief ministerial ambition. We wish he becomes CM in 2028 when Congress will return to power," he said.

Zameer said this after meeting Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

"On November 29, at Hubballi, we're distributing 42,345 homes. I invited Kharge to this event. Even Rahul Gandhi has been invited," Zameer said.

According to Zameer, Siddaramaiah has an appointment with Rahul in Delhi on November 17.

Siddaramaiah is slated to visit the national capital on November 15. Shivakumar is also heading to Delhi on November 14.

Siddaramaiah flexes muscle at Kuruba event, seeks support

'Siddu enjoys high command's 'affection', will continue as CM'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday extolled his contributions to his Kuruba community at an event where he received cross-party support amid speculation about his tenure.

Siddaramaiah was speaking after laying the foundation stone for a new student hostel of the Kurubara Sangha at Gandhinagar.

Delving into history, Siddaramaiah said it was he who helped the Kurubara Sangha survive by ensuring the ouster of "rowdy Puttaswamy" despite facing threats from him in the 1980s. Siddaramaiah said the celebration of Kanaka Jayanti was initiated when he was the transport minister in 1988. The CM also highlighted his role in the establishment of the Kaginele Kanaka Gurupeetha in 1992.

"I have done so much for Kurubas. I have also worked for the upliftment of Dalits, other backward classes and minorities," Siddaramaiah said.

Pointing out that he has "never done casteism", Siddaramaiah said: "I've worked for the poor among Lingayats, Vokkaligas and Brahmins."

Siddaramaiah said he had always stood against "Manuvada" and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). "They are Sanatanavadis and Manuvadis. They divided society into castes: Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vyshya and Shudra," he said. "Our government introduced the guarantee schemes to end this inequality," he said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah takes part in a programme organised to lay the foundation stone for the construction of a new student hostel of the Kurubara Sangha at Gandhinagar in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Seeking the support of the 50-lakh-strong Kuruba community, Siddaramaiah said people of all castes and classes loved him. "You've given me supppprt for the last 45 years. I want your blessings to continue," he said.

Urban Development Minister B S Suresha (Byrathi) said Siddaramaiah enjoyed the "affection" of the Congress high command. "Becoming the CM twice is uncommon in Congress. Siddaramaiah became the CM with the support of MLAs and the affection of Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and K C Venugopal," he said.

Suresha expressed confidence that Siddaramaiah would continue as the CM. "Both Siddaramaiah and (deputy CM) D K Shivakumar are like brothers. The high command will decide on what's to be done," he said.

BJP leaders Raghunath Rao Malkapure and Varthur Prakash hailed Siddaramaiah's leadership.

Prakash said the CM had the support of 100 Congress MLAs. "If something happens, the entire Ahinda (minorities, Dalits and backward classes) must hit the streets," he said, referring to Siddaramaiah's possible replacement. "I also urge him to see to it that his son becomes the CM."

After Bihar results, Rahul will allege 'vote theft': Ashoka

BENGALURU, DHNS

BJP Leader R Ashoka claimed on Wednesday that top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi would raise accusations of 'vote theft' after the Bihar election results were out.

Speaking to reporters, Ashoka, the leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, said: "More than 12 organisations have conducted surveys, and it is estimated that the NDA will come to power. It is said that there is no support for the Congress alliance."

"After the Bihar election results come, Rahul Gandhi will accuse of vote theft. Congress is continuously losing under Rahul Gandhi's leadership. Rahul Gandhi has become famous as the 'iron leg' in the Lok Sabha and assembly elections," he charged.

Speaking about the Delhi blast incident, Ashoka said the Union government is taking "strict" action.

He slammed Minister Priyank Kharge for his comments that BJP leader Amit Shah was the "most unfit" Union home minister.

"Priyank Kharge should not look at Delhi, which is 3,000 km away. When your father Mallikarjun Kharge was home minister, there was the Kambalapalli incident in Kolar district, where eight Dalits were burnt alive. What happened in that case? They (accused) were found to be innocent. If your father couldn't save those Dalits as home minister, what moral right do you have to speak about Amit Shah?" he said.

Sudhakar reconciles with BYV

BENGALURU, DHNS: Months after he publicly criticised Karnataka BJP president B Y Vijayendra, BJP MP from Chikkaballapur K Sudhakar on Wednesday reconciled with the state BJP chief.

Interacting with journalists after meeting Vijayendra, Sudhakar said, "Our president Vijayendra has reached 50 years of age. He was in Belagavi on his birthday and I was unable to wish him. Once he came to Bengaluru, I met and conveyed my wishes. We also discussed a few political issues."

"The party's central leadership is very clear about Vijayendra leading the party in the state, and everyone must abide by that decision. Who am I to question it? I have no disappointment. If there is any issue, I will talk to Vijayendra," he said.

Sudhakar was one of the 14 Congress MLAs who jumped ship and joined the BJP, ultimately bringing about the collapse of the H D Kumaraswamy-led alliance government. Sudhakar subsequently served as the Health Minister in the BJP-led government.

"I told Vijayendra that it was his good fortune to have become the president of the Karnataka BJP at his age," said Sudhakar, while calling for the party to stand united.

Unhappy with the party functionary who was made president of the Chikkaballapur BJP, Sudhakar had publicly criticised Vijayendra. Sudhakar had further added that Vijayendra could not be compared to his father and former CM B S Yediyurappa, besides expressing fears of the Karnataka BJP chief bringing about the collapse of the party in the state.

Queried about the change in his stance a la Vijayendra, Sudhakar said that his meeting with the Karnataka BJP chief was only a 'courtesy call'.

Kashmir medic sacked for terror links ended up at Al-Falah Univ

Kashmir, from Page 1

Investigators are probing whether Al-Falah University or its network of medical professionals was exploited as a cover or recruitment channel by the module. They are also examining any links between Dr Hassan and Dr Umar Nabi, a Pulwama resident suspected to have carried out the car bombing near the Red Fort.

In a brief statement, Al-Falah University's Vice-Chancellor Bhupinder Kaur Anand said the institution "has no connection with the said persons apart from them working in their official capacities with the university", adding that it is cooperating fully with the authorities.

The development comes amid an ongoing investigation into the recovery of 2,900 kg of explosives from a Faridabad house rented by another Kashmiri doctor, Dr Adeel Rather, believed to have overseen logistics for the same network.

Sources said the group's plan involved embedding professionals and students in key Indian cities to create safe houses, move materials and evade detection. Among those arrested are Dr Shaheen Saeed, Dr Muzammil Shakeel Ganai, and Dr Adeel Rather, all with medical backgrounds and alleged professional ties to Al-Falah University.

Delhi blast: Kharge slams Centre, demands thorough probe

BENGALURU, DHNS: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday said the Union government "failed" to prevent the bomb blast near Red Fort in Delhi and sought an "unbiased" investigation into the explosion that killed 12 people.

"There should be an unbiased inquiry. Based on whatever comes out of that, those guilty must be punished. Nobody should be spared," Kharge told reporters. "Those who think of doing something like this must fear."

That the blast happened in the national capital was "unfortunate" despite the presence of multiple agencies, Kharge said.

"You (union government) have the intelligence bureau, the CBI and other agencies. Still, the government failed on this front," Kharge said. "Let's see what further information arises. The Parliament session is also starting from December 1," he added.

Exit polls

Kharge suggested that exit polls may go wrong with their predictions for Bihar.

"Exit polls are showing NDA as leading. Exit polls aren't very encouraging for our alliance. Still, let's see," he said and cited the example of Haryana. "In Haryana, all exit polls favoured Congress. But the result was the opposite," he said.

During the day, Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar expressed confidence that the Mahagathbandhan would win. "I don't believe in exit polls," he said.

CM's statement on terror attack 'cheap, insensitive': BYV

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP state president B Y Vijayendra on Wednesday lashed out at Chief Minister Siddaramaiah who had asked why terror attacks occurred during elections. He called CM's remarks "insensitive" and "cheap".

"At a time when there could've been a terror attack against the country, when the country needs to be united, it's tragic that they are indulging in such cheap politics. The fact that the Congress politicises the country's security, citizens' deaths, soldiers' sacrifice and national honour is really worrying," Vijayendra posted on X (formerly Twitter).

"Just the way the people of Bihar are responding to the anti-national, insensitive and cheap politics of the Congress, the people of the state (Karnataka) will also answer...," Vijayendra said, and urged the chief minister to withdraw his statement.

In a tweet on Wednesday, Siddaramaiah sought to know why terrorist attacks happen only during elections.

Earlier on Tuesday, reporters had asked Siddaramaiah the same question, to which the chief minister explained that there needs to be an investigation on the issue.

When asked if the blast would have any impact on the Bihar elections, Siddaramaiah had answered that it would negatively affect the BJP.

DKS proposes tower for diplomatic offices in B'luru

Missions of 40-50 countries to be housed there

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has proposed to build a big tower to house foreign diplomatic missions in Bengaluru.

Shivakumar said this after meeting Singapore's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Gan Siow Huang. She was in the city to inaugurate the new Enterprise Singapore Centre.

"I have proposed that space will be provided for all their offices by building a tower, which can house missions of 40-50 countries," Shivakumar said.

"I had raised this earlier and some of them cited security issues. But we need to do something about it," he said.

Bengaluru has 31 foreign diplomatic missions, including consulates and high commissions, whose offices are spread across the city.

He said he wants to provide a "one-time solution" to foreign diplomatic missions.

"Many foreigners come and work here. Many are interested to invest. This needs to be strengthened," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar with Singapore Minister Gan Siow Huang in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

According to Shivakumar's office, the government earlier proposed a dedicated space for foreign diplomatic missions on Race Course Road. It did not materialise due to security concerns. On his meeting with the Singapore delegation, Shivakumar said they want to "engage in business ties, technology transfers and opening of new industrial parks".

Patil to visit Singapore

Huang also met Industries Minister M B Patil and discussed investment opportunities.

"Among ASEAN nations, Singapore is the largest source of foreign direct investment into India, offering Karnataka valuable opportunities to expand industrial and trade partnerships. To make the best use of this potential, a visit to Singapore is planned during the first half of 2026," Patil said in a statement.

Patil told the Singapore minister that Karnataka offers "excellent" investment opportunities in sectors such as information technology, semiconductors, fintech, chip design and pharmaceuticals.

"Since 2020, Singaporean companies have invested $174.88 billion in India, accounting for about 24% of the country's total FDI inflow. Over 9,000 Indian companies are operating in Singapore, while 440 Singaporean firms are active in India," the minister said.

Satish Jarkiholi lobbies for KPCC chief's post

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, a close confidant of CM Siddaramaiah, met Congress General Secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala here and is learnt to have lobbied for the KPCC president's post.

According to sources, Jarkiholi met Surjewala late on Tuesday and held a closed-door discussion lasting over half an hour. He reportedly urged the party leadership to allow CM Siddaramaiah to complete his five-year term in the larger interest of the party and government.

Jarkiholi is said to have cautioned that replacing Siddaramaiah now would hurt the party's prospects. He also pressed for the implementation of the "one man, one post" principle, suggesting that Deputy CM D K Shivakumar be replaced as KPCC president. Neither Jarkiholi nor Surjewala was available for comments.

Setbacks for buildings up to 12 m high

For plot area up to 4,000 sq m

Site area (in sq m)	SETBACKS			
	Front Side	Rear Side	Left Side	Right Side
Up to 60	0.75 m	-	0.60 m on any one side	
Above 60 up to 150	0.9 m	0.7 m	0.70 m on any one side	
Above 150 up to 4,000	12% of the depth of site	8% of the depth of site	8% of the width of site	8% of the width of site

Govt to allow stilt plus 4 floors...

Regulations, from Page 1

As building norms are poorly enforced in Bengaluru, there is concern that the additional relaxations, compounded by the lack of enforcement of the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) rules, will lead to a manifold increase in violations.

Suhas Ananth Rajkumar, a resident of CV Raman Nagar, believes that setbacks on all sides should be mandatory even for small builders, as zero setbacks could lead to damage to neighbouring buildings during new constructions. "Each building will be leaning on the other. There will be no compound walls," he said, adding the relaxations will create more opportunities to violate laws.

Meanwhile, citizens can raise objections and suggestions within 30 days. Inputs must be addressed to the Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department, Vikasa Soudha, Bengaluru, the notification states.

Sugarcane growers' stir continues in Haveri, Mudhol

HAVERI/BAGALKOT, DHNS

The protests by sugarcane growers in Haveri, and Mudhol in Bagalkot district continued as the negotiations between the farmers and the sugar factory managements failed to break sugarcane price deadlock, on Wednesday.

In Haveri, Deputy Commissioner Vijay Mahantesh had arranged the talks between the farmers and the factory owners. The talks, however, ended in a stalemate with both the parties sticking to their guns.

Sugarcane growers stage a protest demanding that the government announce Rs 3,500 per tonne of cane by blocking Jamkhandi-Bilagi road at Hulyal village in Bagalkot district.

During the talks, the farmers stuck to their stand that they would not accept anything less than Rs 3,300 per tonne of sugarcane. The factory managements - J M Sugar Company in Sangur and VINP Sugars Pvt Ltd at Konanakeri - did not agree to this.

The government has done injustice to Haveri district, farmers said. It has fixed Rs 3,300 per tonne for Belagavi based on recovery rate. The farmers threatened to continue their stir till the government issued an order fixing Rs 3,300 per tonne.

Pranavananda Swami of Brahmashri Narayanaguru Shakti Peeth visited the protest site and expressed solidarity with the agitating farmers.

Meanwhile, sugarcane growers' protest in Mudhol and Jamkhandi taluks affected vehicular movement in Bagalkot district with road blocks in several taluks on Wednesday.

Bagalkot Deputy Commissioner Sangappa's efforts to convince the farmers to end their protest and come for price negotiation came a cropper.

The farmers in Bagalkot are demanding Rs 3,500 per tonne of sugarcane and release of additional Rs 500 for cane supplied to factories in 2024-25. They alleged that the factories are cheating the farmers in weighing and recovery rate. The farmers staged road blocks at Jamkhandi, Shirol Cross, Surebhavi, Kasaba Jambagi, Chichakhandi, Halagali, Mantur and Budni.

The traffic on Vijayapura-Mudhol and Jamkhandi-Lokapur roads was hit badly, causing grave hardships to students, office-goers and daily wagers.

THE PRINTERS (MYSORE) PRIVATE LIMITED
Publishers: DECCAN HERALD, PRAJAVANI, SUDHA & MAYURA

We are a leading newspaper and magazine publishing group in Karnataka. We invite applications for the following position in our organisation.

Jr. EXECUTIVE - CIRCULATION

Work Location : Across Karnataka
Experience : 4+ years of experience in sales and possess excellent interpersonal skills.
Skills : Sales or Circulation of newspapers.
Qualification : Minimum PUC/12th
Job Purpose :

- Achieve circulation target, promote and monitor publication in the assigned region.
- Formulate and implement various market strategies.
- Distributes and explains circulation instructions and changes to distributors and dealers.
- Managing escalations.
- Early morning reporting on field is mandatory.
- Two-wheeler is mandatory.

Manager-Talent Acquisition
The Printers (Mysore) Private Limited
75, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bengaluru – 560 001
E-mail: neesha.srinivas@printersmysore.co.in

THE PRINTERS (MYSORE) PRIVATE LIMITED
Publishers: DECCAN HERALD, PRAJAVANI, SUDHA & MAYURA

We are a leading newspaper and magazine publishing group in Karnataka. We invite applications for the following position in our organisation.

MANAGER - CIRCULATION

Work Location : Across Karnataka
No. Of Position : 4
Experience : 8+ years of experience in sales and possess excellent interpersonal skills.
Skills : Sales or Circulation of newspapers.
Qualification : Any Graduate
Job Purpose :

- Achieve circulation target, promote and monitor publication in the assigned region.
- Formulate and implement various market strategies.
- Distributes and explains circulation instructions and changes to distributors and dealers and investigates and adjusts dealer complaints.
- Early morning reporting on field is mandatory.
- Two-wheeler is mandatory.

Manager-Talent Acquisition
The Printers (Mysore) Private Limited
75, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bengaluru – 560 001
E-mail: neesha.srinivas@printersmysore.co.in

Channegowda, who played Gaddappa in 'Thithi', dead

BENGALURU/MANDYA, DHNS: Channegowda, known for his iconic role of Gadappa in Kannada movie 'Thithi' (2015), died of age-related ailments at Nodekoppalu, Mandya taluk, on Wednesday morning. He was 79.

Channegowda was suffering from asthma and heart-related ailments for several months.

Channegowda

"His personality was exactly like how he was portrayed as Gaddappa in 'Thithi'. I have seen him since my childhood. He had an eccentric character and lived a simple life. And no one in the village donned a beard like him," Ere Gowda, writer of 'Thithi', also Channegowda's nephew, told *DH*.

His popular dialogue from Thithi, 'En nin problemmu' ('What is your problem?') is still remembered by fans. Channegowda then went on to act in 10 movies, including 'Tharle Village' (2016), 'En Nin Problemmu' (2017), and 'Halli Panchayathi' (2017).

"The shimmer in his eyes, the depth of his smile, the spirit in his steps, the beauty of his essence; he was a man who played such an important and enriching role in my life, a man who inspired me and I looked up to ever since the first day I met him... We will love and celebrate you always (sic)," Director of 'Thithi' Raam Reddy wrote on Instagram.

Channegowda's daughter Shobha said, "My father was very fond of films. He used to watch almost all films exhibited in theatres. Even though he received several offers to act in films, he could not do it, due to ill-health. He was fondly called Gaddappa, ever since he was running a hotel. The same name was used in the 'Thithi' film. Fans used to come here to meet him."

The last rites were conducted on his land at Nodekoppalu on Wednesday evening.

Infosys Prize 2025: Awardees will get a gold medal, citation and $ 1 lakh

B'luru scientist, Prakrit scholar among winners

BENGALURU, DHNS

Against the backdrop of Schrodinger's cat and paying ode to the International Year of Quantum, the Infosys Science Foundation announced six winners for the Infosys Prize 2025 on Wednesday. A Bengaluru scientist is one among the six winners.

The awardees have been chosen from six different fields of science—economics, life sciences, engineering and computer science, humanities and social sciences, mathematical sciences and physical sciences. Each winner will receive a gold medal, a citation and a cash prize of 1 lakh US dollars (approx Rs 88 lakh).

Anjana Badrinarayanan (Life Sciences)

Bengaluru-based scientist Anjana is an Associate Professor, Cellular Organisation and Signalling, at the National Centre for Biological Sciences. Anjana's work addresses how genomes faithfully preserve their integrity despite widespread potential for damage.

A hallmark of her research is methodological innovation — her laboratory developed microfluidics-based live-cell microscopy to visualise chromosome dynamics in real time, which has helped solve a long-standing mystery in DNA repair.

Andrew Ollett (Humanities & Social Sciences)

An associate professor in the department of South Asian languages and Civilisations at The University of Chicago, Ollett is a leading scholar of the Prakrit languages and Kannada poetics. Through his work, Ollett has provided psychological depth and insight to the intellectual history of South Asia over the last two millennia. His book 'Language of the Snakes' analyses the cultural roles of Prakrit in tandem with Sanskrit and the Indian vernaculars over the last 2,000 years.

Nikhil Agarwal (Economics)

Nikhil is a Paul A Samuelson Professor, Department of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA. Agarwal is a leading scholar who has led a new wave of research that applies econometric techniques to analyse markets which do not rely on prices to match supply and demand. His research focuses on empirical design, efficiency and equity of allocation and matching markets, including school choice, medical residency and kidney exchanges.

Sabyasachi Mukherjee (Mathematical Sciences)

Currently in Mumbai, Mukherjee is an associate professor (School of Mathematics) at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. His research has reshaped the world's understanding of conformal dynamics and also led to a deeper understanding of the dynamics of algebraic correspondences on Riemann surfaces.

Sushant Sachdeva (Engineering & Computer Sciences)

An associate professor of mathematical and computational sciences at the University of Toronto in Canada, Sachdeva's work provides deep insights into mathematical optimisation and the resolution of longstanding open questions in algorithmic theory. Known among his peers for creating "absurdly fast" algorithms, his research has had a deep impact on important societal services like healthcare and transportation.

Karthish Manthiram (Physical Sciences)

A professor of chemical engineering and chemistry at California Institute of Technology, Manthiram has trained as a postdoctoral fellow with Nobel laureate Robert Grubbs. His research covers the fields of electrochemistry, catalysis and sustainability.

(From left) Pratima Murthy, Srinath Batni, Kris Gopalakrishnan, Narayana Murthy, K Dinesh, S D Shibulal and Salil Parekh at the announcement of the Infosys Prize for 2025 in Bengaluru.

Strengthening focus on research vital for India, says NRN

BENGALURU, DHNS: Infosys founder N R Narayana Murthy, on Wednesday, stressed the importance of strengthening the focus on research in India across both national and institutional levels.

He was addressing the gathering during the announcement of the Infosys Prize for 2025 at the Infosys Science Foundation Office here.

The pioneer of India's IT revolution also delivered a lecture on 'The Importance of Research for India and the World'.

Quoting some well-known researchers and statesmen, including Jawaharlal Nehru, Alan Turing and Thomas Alva Edison, he called on Indian institutions to commit to creating a robust research ecosystem.

"Research is humanity's noblest collective enterprise. It demands courage, persistence and imagination. It bridges society, reason and values, and ethics and dignity," he said.

"Ultimately, research is the only means we have to make India a better nation, and this world a better world. This is the only way we can fulfil the dreams of our founding fathers," he said.

The responsibility of fulfilling the dream of the founding fathers lies on the "bold, daring, imaginative and caring" shoulders of the Infosys Prize laureates, he said.

"I am sure you will succeed in this through your research, because, like me, you too are inspired by the confident, emphatic, visionary and immoral works of the celebrated mathematician, David Hilbert, who said, 'We must know, We will know'," he signed off.

He was accompanied by fellow trustees of the Infosys Science Foundation, Kris Gopalakrishnan, S D Shibulal, Srinath Batni, Pratima Murthy and Foundation president K Dinesh in announcing the awards for six categories on Infosys Prize 2025.

The Infosys Prize was first launched in 2009 to honour individuals whose research and scholarship significantly impact India.

Awardees of the Infosys Prize 2025 will be officially felicitated in January 2026.

GO: Menstrual leave to be used...

Menstrual leave, from Page 1

The policy formulated by an 18-member committee headed by Dr Sapna S of Christ (Deemed-to-be University) had initially suggested six menstrual leaves a year but was later upgraded to 12 by the Labour Department and submitted to the government.

According to the GO, the women employees have to use the menstrual leave in that very month and cannot "carry over" the leaves to the next month.

The order also specifies that women don't have to submit any medical certificate while availing of the menstrual leave.

Retail inflation falls to record low of 0.25% in Oct

Inflation, from Page 1

While low inflation is considered good for the common people and normally the central bank and the government struggle to keep it under control, the sharp decline in inflation is not a good sign for the economy.

"Across the board strong deflationary conditions are not good for the Indian economy, especially from a fiscal point of view," said Paras Jasrai, associate director, India Ratings and Research. To prevent the economy from going deep into sluggish or weaker territory, the RBI may go for a 25-50 basis points cut in repo rate in its December 2025 monetary policy, he said.

After lowering the policy interest rate by 100 basis points between February and June, the RBI hit pause buttons in August and October. With inflation numbers sharply lower than its tolerance band, the RBI would be under pressure to cut interest rates in the upcoming policy review scheduled on December 3-5.

Prices of food items fell sharply leading to deeper deflation in the segment. Food and beverages, which has 45.9% weightage in the CPI, witnessed a deflation of 5.02% in October. Prices of vegetables, pulses and spices fell sharply in October when compared with the same month last year. Nearly all food categories witnessed month-on-month declines.

"Food inflation continues to ease amid favourable base effects and seasonal factors," said Madhavi Arora, chief economist, Emkay Global Financial Services.

Only a few items and services like sugar, confectionery, pan & tobacco, education and personal care witnessed sequential increase in prices. Core inflation, which excludes the volatile prices of food and fuel, increased to 4.40% in October from 4.27% recorded in the previous month.

MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Administration Department
MSIL House, No. 36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052.
Phone: 080-22264021/25
No.: MSIL/Admin/587/2025-26 Date: 12.11.2025

NOTIFICATION

The provisional selection list for direct recruitment has been published on the official website and is also displayed on the notice board of the Head Office.

Sd/- Chief Administrative Officer

School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal
(An Institution of National Importance, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
Phone - 0755-2526819, 2526821, 2526822
No. SPAB/RGO/Advt./2025-26/10 Date: 13/11/2025

Rolling PhD Admission

School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), Bhopal invites online applications for Rolling PhD admission in all programmes offered by SPA Bhopal. For further details, please refer to the Institute website: spabhopal.ac.in.

Registrar

AIR FORCE SCHOOL ASTE
NAL Wind Tunnel Road, Murgeshpalya,
Bengaluru –560017

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Air Force School ASTE, invites tender for renovation of existing Biology Lab. Tender forms are available on **www.afsaste.edu.in**
Last date of submission/Tender opening: **03 Dec 25**
For details contact **080-25272332/25276920**

BALLARI CITY CORPORATION, BALLARI
No: BCC/Eng/S.T.N./2025-26 Date:10.11.2025

Short Term Tender Notification (KPPP)

The Commissioner Ballari City Corporation, Ballari invites Tender as per the KTPP Act 1999-2000 through KPPP portal for yearSwatch Bharath Mission fund (Amount Rs.577.39 Lakhs)for Indent No.**01)DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT37405/Call-2**eligible firms with having valid labour licence can participate in the tender for more information Tender documents can be downloaded upto **26.11.2025** on Before 17.30 Hours. Pre-bid meeting will be held on **20.11.2025** at 12.30 Hours. Date of Opening of Technical Bid on **28.11.2025** at 10.30 Hours. Technically Qualified Contractor's Financial Bid will be opened on **01.12.2025** at 10.30 Hours. Transaction fee & EMD should be remitted in the e-procurement Portal, Government of Karnataka:http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Commissioner,
Ballari City Corporation, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/655/KSMCA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Olo Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor,
Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road,
Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple), Bengaluru 560070.
Phone No: 080-26716046 Website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/JE-1/27/2025-26 Dated:11.11.2025.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
KPPP Tender Notice (Single Cover System)

Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For 2515-00-101-0-29/2025-26 & TP Untied 2515-00-102-0-62/2025-26 Grants Works. The work details can obtained from the KPPP Web Site The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **Dated:19.11.2025 upto 4.00 pm.** Further details can be obtained from web site at http://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/3739/SSC/2025-26

KARNATAKA STATE TOWN PLANNING BOARD
Office of the Director & Member Secretory, GPO PB # 5257, M.S. Building
Gate IV, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru- 01.
Ph No: 080-22258988, 22353974, 22353976 Fax:080-22389519
e-mail: mskstpb@karnataka.gov.in website: www.kstpb.dtcp.gov.in
Ref No. KSTPB/FD/e-Auction-1/2025-26 Date:13.11.2025

E-AUCTION NOTICE REGARDING FIXED DEPOSIT
(Through KPP Portal only)

This is to inform that Karnataka State Town Planning Board intends to invest its Funds (Rs.16 Crore) in the short-term deposits. e-Auction notice is published through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 13.11.2025** vide Auction notice number: **DTCP/2025-26/AUCTION5.**
The complete details of the e-Auction can be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Portal.

No: KSTPB/ 01/Tender-vehicles with drivers/2025-26 Date: 13.11.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

This is to inform that Karnataka State Town Planning Board, invited Tenders from reputed firms for supply of vehicles with drivers. Tender notice is published through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **13.11.2025 vide Tender No: DTCP/2025-26/SE0086.**
The complete details of the tender with NIT, terms & conditions etc., can be obtained / downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.

Sd/-
Deputy Director,
Karnataka State Town Planning Board,
Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/JA/3747/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯಾ/5054ಮಳೆ.ಪ./ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/ತಾಸ/2025–26/1380 ದಿನಾಂಕ:12.11.2025

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ) 2ನೇ ಕರೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ.: ಸುರಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಕೋನಾಳ ದಿಂದ ಬಾಚಿಮಟ್ಟಿ ವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ (ಇಂಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT18049) **2) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ** : 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 5054 ಮಳೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಅನುದಾನ ಯೋಜನೆ **3) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ** : ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 100.00 ಲಕ್ಷ **4) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** 3ನೇ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು **5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 14.11.2025 ರಿಂದ 21.11.2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **6) ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) **7) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 21.11.2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **8) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರೀಕ:** 24.11.2025 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **9) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ:** 27.11.2025 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ 10) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ): ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ. **11) ಅಂತರಜಾಲ ತಾಣದ ವಿಳಾಸ:**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
ಸೂಚನೆ:– ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರ/383/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.&ಎ/2025–26

Government of Karnataka
Office of The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shivamogga Division, Shivamogga
Territorial Division Office, DC Compund, Shimoga-577201.
phone: 08182-272210 FAX No: 08182-22565 EmailID: dcf.shivamoga@gmail.com
No.: B2/Logging/Auction/Kuruvalli/CR-17/2025-26 Date: 07.11.2025

Tender Notice Related to e-Auction of Forest Produce

It is hereby informed to the General Public that dates of 01.12.2025 and 02.12.2025 has been fixed to dispose through e-Auction the stock of Timber/Firewood/Billets/Poles at the Government Timber Depot, Kuruvalli, Thirthahalli Zone Shivamogga Division. For the said Auction participation is subject to conditions informed vide the detailed notification of this office No.: B2/Logging/Auction/Kuruvalli/CR-17/2025-26, Date: 07.11.2025. For further information regarding the e-Auction this office can be contacted during office hours and details regarding the Auction can be obtained by the official website of GoK www.etimber.in www.mstcecommerce.com

Details of Forest Produce kept for e-Auction

Sl. No	Name of Depot	Details of Produce		Lot No.	Approx. Quantity (in M3)	Date and Sessions
1	G. T. D. Kuruvalli, Thirthahalli Zone	Acacia	Timber	378	9841=1561.515	01.12.2025 I, II, III, IV & 02.12.2025 I Session
2		Beete	Timber	04	27=4.812	
3		Saaguvaani	Timber	06	53=2.768	
4		Other family	Timber	35	156=41.348	
5		Nilgiri Pellota	Timber	13	364=69.81	
6		Other family	Sizes	06	67=0.991	
7		Saaguvaani	Poles	01	2 No.	
8		Other family	Firewood	10	55.500	
9		Acacia	Firewood Billets	165	3005.122	
10		Nilgiri Pellota	Firewood	10	174.165	
11		Sand	-	07	32.510	
			Total	635		

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shivamogga Division, Shivamogga
DIPR/ksmca/smg/25-26/38/11/1214

Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN: U70100KA2015SGC081817
Office of the Commissioner, 5th floor, Indhana Bhavana, Race Course Road,
Bangalore - 560009. E-mail: eepmudot@gmail.com | Ph No.: 080-22352525
No: ಕೆಟಿಎಲ್/3rd Party/2025-26 Date:00.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

The Karnataka Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (K.T.I.L) invites tenders for appointing an eligible consultant firm to provide third-party (3rd Party) services for its works. **Indent Number: KTIL/2025-26/SE0055,** last date to submit tender: **11.12.2025 by 16:00 hours.** Tender details are available on the electronic procurement platform (**https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in**) and can be downloaded from **11.11.2025**. The EMD amount and tender process fee must be paid electronically (**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**). Interested firms must register on the electronic procurement platform to participate in the tender.

DIPR/CP/JA/3760/2025-26
Sd/-
Executive Engineer.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE KALABURAGI DISTRICT,
No.ACT/STORE/ITMS/KK/11/25-26(P-2/CALL-2) DATE: 12-11-2025.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT)

Superintendent of Police Kalaburgi Dist. Invites tender for Supply, Installation & maintenance of ANPR & CCTV AI based Surveillance, cameras at Kalaburagi District In various locations Eligibility for bidders in bid system (Techno-commercial Bid & Financial Bid) in e-procurement mode Details are available in the site : **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date and time for upload of e-tender in procurement platform as follows.
Tender Schedule: 1) Name of the work: Supply, Installation & maintenance of ANPR & CCTV AI based Surveillance, cameras at Kalaburagi District in various locations, 2) Amount put to tender: 52,63,150/-, 3) Date of Commencement of Tender: 12-11-2025, 4) Last date and time for receipt of tender forms: 24-11-2025, 05.00 PM, 5) Pre-Bid meeting date, time & place: 20-11-2025 at 11.00 AM Police Bhavan Kalaburagi, 6) Opening of Technical Bid: 26-11-2025 at 11.00 AM, 7) Opening of Financial Bid: 28-11-2025 at 11.00 AM, 8) Venue of Pre-Bid meeting opening of tenders and address for communication: Office of the Superintendent of Police, Police Bhavana, Kuvempu Nagar, Kalaburagi-585105 (Ph No. 08472-263602) 9) EMD: Rs 55,000/-

DIPR/Kalaburagi/701/KSMC&A/2025-26
Sd/- Superintendent of Police
Kalaburagi District.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
LABORATORY FOR ELECTRO-OPTICS SYSTEMS (LEOS)
PEENYA, BANGALORE-560058. LEOS CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE DIVISION (LCMD)
[Phone: (080)-22685088, 5047, 5094, 5086, 5087 Fax: (080)-28392310]

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (NIET)

On behalf of the President of India, item rate e- tender is invited for the following works:

Name of the work : NIT NO & Date: Conducting geotechnical investigation for DRUPS building at LEOS & Aryabhata campuses, LEOS, Peenya, Bengaluru-58. NIET No: CMG/LEOS/2025-26/LMN-02; Dtd: 29.10.2025; **Estimated cost put to tender in Rs. 8.28 Lakhs; EMD Rs : 16,560/-; Period of Completion in months :** 02 Months; Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 31.10.2025; **Closing Date :** 18.11.2025

Name of the work : NIT NO & Date: Carrying out Non-Destructive Tests for Technical evaluation/Health assessment of the existing building at the old ISRAD campus, Peenya, Bangalore 58 for the construction of the proposed ADORE building in the campus. NIET No: CMG/LEOS/2025-26/LMN-08; Dtd: 29.10.2025; **Estimated cost put to tender in Rs. 4.53 Lakhs; EMD Rs : 9,060/-; Period of Completion in months :** 01 Month; Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 31.10.2025; **Closing Date :** 18.11.2025

Name of the work : NIT NO & Date: Construction of RCC road near the Mechanical Workshop at Aryabhata Campus, LEOS, Peenya, Bengaluru - 58. NIET No: CMG/LEOS/2025-26/LMN-09; Dtd: 30.10.2025; **Estimated cost put to tender in Rs. 11.91 Lakhs; EMD Rs : 23,820/-; Period of Completion in months :** 06 Months; Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 03.11.2025; **Closing Date :** 19.11.2025

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting e-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO

-Sd- GROUP DIRECTOR
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (C&MG)
URSC, BANGALORE.

DELHI CAR EXPLOSION: Union Cabinet vows to bring culprits and collaborators to justice

Govt terms blast 'terror incident'

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday unequivocally condemned the "heinous terror incident perpetrated by anti-national forces" near the Red Fort and directed the agencies to pursue the investigation with "utmost urgency and professionalism" so that the "perpetrators, their collaborators, and their sponsors" are identified and brought to justice without delay.

Chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who earlier in the day visited Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital to meet those injured in the car blast that took place on Monday evening, the Cabinet meeting expressed its "profound grief" over the loss of lives and observed two minutes' silence. Later, Modi also chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).

The Cabinet passed a resolution saying it was paying its solemn respects to the victims of this "senseless act of violence" and conveys its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

"The country has witnessed a heinous terror incident, perpetrated by anti-national forces, through a car explosion near the Red Fort... The Cabinet prays for the speedy recovery of all those injured, and appreciates the prompt efforts of the medical personnel and emergency responders, who have been providing care and support to the victims," it said.

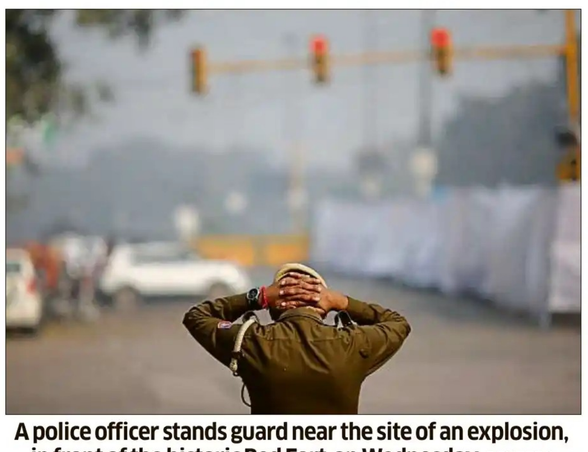
Calling it a "dastardly and cowardly act", the Cabinet also reiterated India's "unwavering commitment" to a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It directed that the investigation into the incident be pursued with the utmost urgency and professionalism so that the perpetrators, their collaborators, and their sponsors are identified and brought to justice without delay.

"The situation continues to be closely monitored at the highest levels of the government," the resolution said, adding that the Cabinet reaffirms the government's steadfast resolve to safeguard the lives and well-being of all Indians, consistent with its enduring commitment to national security and the safety of every citizen.

At a press conference to brief about decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting, I&B-Minister Ashwani Vaishnaw was asked whether the senior ministers discussed about Pakistan's possible involvement. A question also referred to a statement after the Pahalgam attack that any terror strike will be considered as an "act of war".

To these questions, he answered, "The resolution clearly describes the incident as a heinous terror incident... I request you to clearly read the resolution."

To a question on the use of the word "anti-national" in the resolution and whether it meant that the authorities do not consider it as a terror act from across the border, the Minister quipped, "That is your interpretation."



A police officer stands guard near the site of an explosion, in front of the historic Red Fort on Wednesday. REUTERS

J&K police crack down on Jamaat ecosystem

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Two days after the Delhi car blast and the recovery of 2,900 kg of explosives from a Faridabad flat linked to two Kashmiri doctors, the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday carried out a massive crackdown on alleged supporters of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) across the Valley.

The coordinated raids conducted as part of efforts to dismantle the terror support structure at the grassroots level mark an escalation in the ongoing campaign against militant-linked networks in the region.

Police said simultaneous searches were conducted at the houses and premises of Jamaat members and their associates in multiple districts, with a focus on tracing the group's financial, ideological and logistical channels that may still be active despite the outfit's ban in 2019.

"The raids were carried out as part of sustained efforts to dismantle the terror ecosystem and its support structure at the grassroots level," a police official said.

During the searches, police claimed to have seized a large quantity of incriminating material, including documents, digital storage devices and printed content "having direct links with the banned outfit". The material has been sent for detailed analysis, while several suspects have been detained for questioning to verify their role in unlawful and subversive activities.

The latest crackdown comes amid heightened security following the busting of a terror module in Faridabad and Saharanpur, where two Kashmiri doctors — identified as Adeel Ahmad Rather and Muzammil Ahmad — were arrested for their alleged role in storing explosives and aiding the planning of a pan-India terror campaign.

Investigators believe the Red Fort blast, suspected to have been carried out by Pulwama resident Dr Umar Nabi, may have been the first in a series of attacks planned by the group.

Officials, however, said there was no immediate operational link established between the Red Fort attack and Wednesday's raids on Jamaat members, though both are part of a broader strategy to break the ecosystem of radicalisation and financing that supports militancy in Kashmir.

Security officials described the operation as a "preventive sweep" aimed at choking ideological and logistical support to militant groups, particularly those inspired by the now-banned Jamaat's networks. Since its proscription under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in 2019 for alleged terror links, JeI has remained under the radar of intelligence agencies, who believe its cadre continues to operate through educational and welfare fronts in Kashmir.

"Several JeI-linked individuals had resumed underground activities under different social and religious banners," a senior police officer said.

Officials said more raids are expected in the coming days as agencies analyse digital and financial data seized during Wednesday's operation.

Security personnel during a crackdown against the Jamaat-e-Islami in Kulgam. PTI

TARGETED ACTION

- Action targets Jamaat-e-Islami supporters across districts
- Police try to trace financial, logistical channels despite 2019 ban
- Documents, digital devices, printed content linked to outfit seized
- Preventive sweep to choke radicalisation and support networks

Turkiye rejects reports of 'radicalisation activities' in India

DUBAI, PTI: Turkiye on Wednesday rejected as "purely disinformative" the media reports that it was engaged in "radicalisation activities" targeting India and other countries.

The media reports claiming that "Turkiye is linked to terrorist acts in India and provides logistical, diplomatic, and financial support to terrorist groups are part of a malicious disinformation campaign aimed at damaging bilateral relations," Turkiye's Directorate of Communications Centre for Countering Disinformation said in a statement.

It said that the claim that Turkiye engages in "radicalisation activities" targeting India or any other country is "purely disinformative and lacks any factual basis".

ATS raids teacher's homes over suspected Al-Qaeda links

MUMBAI, DHNS: The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) on Wednesday raided two residences linked to a teacher in Mumbra and Kurla over alleged connections with Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent.

Investigators believe that the teacher, Ibrahim Abidi (64), may have been influencing children towards extremist ideologies.

Abidi stayed in Mumbra with his second wife and taught Urdu in a mosque in Kurla.

He had been under surveillance for suspected online communication with extremist networks.

"The police came with a search warrant in the afternoon and checked our house. They took our hard disk, our phones, and my children's devices. We called and complained to the control room but received no response. My children and I are disturbed," his wife said, adding that the ATS team came from Pune.

These searches are reportedly linked to the ongoing investigation into the Pune AQIS case, in which a software engineer was earlier arrested for alleged links to the banned terrorist organisation. The investigations, however, are not linked to the Delhi attack.

NIA questions former migrant worker in Bengal

KOLKATA, DHNS: A team of officials of the National Investigation Agency visited a village in Murshidabad in West Bengal on Wednesday and questioned a man who had earlier worked in Delhi.

The NIA officials visited Nabagram in Murshidabad just a day after the agency had formally taken over the investigation into the recent explosion near Red Fort.

The agency, however, did not officially make it clear if the visit to the village and several other locations in Murshidabad was in any way linked to the investigation into the blast inDelhi.

Al-Falah University denies links to blast

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Al-Falah University on Wednesday said it has no connection with the two doctors arrested in connection with a large explosive haul in Faridabad, apart from their professional engagement, and dismissed social media allegations that the campus was used to store explosives.

In a statement, Vice-Chancellor of the Faridabad-based private university, Bhupinder Kaur Anand, said the institution is "extending its full cooperation" to the investigating authorities to help them reach a "logical, fair, and conclusive determination" in the matter concerning national security.

The statement expressed "deep concern" over "baseless and misleading stories" circulating online with a "clear intent to malign the reputation and goodwill" of the university.

The Al-Falah Group has managed various institutions since 1997. It gained autonomous status in 2009 and was granted university status in 2014.

Differences over moving abroad: Shaheen's ex-husband

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Lucknow-based doctor Shaheen Sayeed, who was arrested in connection with a massive explosives haul in Faridabad, dreamt of settling abroad and never displayed any radical ideas, according to her ex-husband Dr Zafar Hayat.

Dr Zafar Hayat

Zafar, who was questioned by the police after Shaheen's arrest, said they separated in 2013. "Shaheen wanted to settle in the USA or Australia...we had differences over it...she never displayed radical thoughts when she was with me," he said.

The couple has two children. They live with Zafar and are not in touch with Shaheen.

Zafar recalled that she never wore a burqa during their life together and was a loving mother to their children. Shaheen liked to live a 'luxurious life', he added. He stated that he had no contact with her after their divorce.

Brother in disbelief

Expressing disbelief over his sister's alleged link with terrorist activities, Shaheen's brother Mohammad Shoaib said his family was still struggling to accept that she could have been involved in anything unlawful.

The statements of Shaheen's elder brother and former husband came even as the Uttar Pradesh Police and the Anti-Terrorist Squad continued their probe.

Searches and inquiries were also conducted in Kanpur, where Shaheen once lived and worked after marriage. "They searched the house and asked questions normally, the same way you are asking me now," the brother said.

"Neither my father nor I was treated harshly. There was no pressure or force used to make us say anything. They only asked when my sister stopped visiting us," he added.

Shoaib said his sister and he had not been in touch for the last four years. He said his parents nevertheless checked on her occasionally.

"Parents will naturally call their children to ask how they are doing. I am her elder brother; of course, I would also worry about her. Isn't that normal?" he said.

(With PTI inputs)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits the Red Fort blast victims at Lok Nayak Hospital in New Delhi. AFP

Modi visits blast victims, assures justice

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday visited victims of the Red Fort blast admitted to Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital, hours after returning from his two-day trip to Bhutan. He also assured that those responsible for the attack would be brought to justice.

The PM met the injured and interacted with their families, enquiring about their treatment and recovery. "Praying for everyone's quick recovery," he said in a post on X after the visit.

Officials briefed Modi on the medical condition of the patients and the ongoing investigation into the blast.

"The entire nation stands with the victims," Modi said, reiterating that the government would ensure strict action against those behind the attack.

The Delhi Police and central agencies are continuing their probe into the explosion, which is being treated as a terror incident.

Security has been tightened in and around the Red Fort and other high-security zones in the national capital.

Senior BJP leaders and Union ministers also expressed solidarity with the victims.

Doctor's career move to UP turning point in terror plot

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

When Dr Adeel Ahmad Rather, a young Kashmiri physician, left Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag in October 2024 to join a private hospital in Uttar Pradesh, few could have imagined that his career move would later be seen as the starting point of one of India's most chilling terror conspiracies in recent years.

According to intelligence sources, the move marked the beginning of a carefully orchestrated plan that would stretch across several states, culminating in the Red Fort car bomb blast in New Delhi on November 10 that killed at least 12 people. Investigators now believe the planning for what they describe as a "pan-India terror campaign" began more than a year ago — and that Rather's transfer was not a coincidence but a strategic relocation designed to expand the group's reach beyond Kashmir.

Sources said the module, which has come to be known as the "doctor terror module", used the mobility and credibility of educated professionals to evade suspicion while setting up logistical bases across north India.

Police believe that once Rather shifted to UP, he and his associates began identifying sympathisers among Kashmiri and local professionals in cities like Delhi and Faridabad. Rented accommodations were taken, where investigators later found evidence of explosive storage and assembly activity.

The breakthrough came with the recovery of 2,900 kg of explosive material from a rented flat in Faridabad of Dr Muzammil Shakeel, an associate of Rather. The discovery led to the unravelling of a network that investigators now suspect had planned simultaneous attacks across multiple cities.

"The plan was to create a series of low-cost, high-impact explosions that would stretch security agencies and reignite fear across the country," said an intelligence officer involved in the probe.

He said that while the ideological roots of the module lay in southern Kashmir, its operational blueprint was national in scope. The group's members allegedly used professional relocation, internships and medical fellowships to move between cities — effectively creating a network of sleeper operatives living ordinary lives.

"They understood that after years of counterinsurgency in Kashmir, the focus had shifted away from mainland India. Using educated professionals allowed them to build infrastructure quietly — safe houses, bank accounts, and supply chains — without attracting attention," the officer added.

The case has alarmed security agencies, who see it as a sign of "white-collar radicalisation", a phenomenon where educated individuals exploit professional spaces to further extremist agendas. Preliminary findings suggest the module operated on multiple tiers: one focused on logistics and procurement, another on recruitment and propaganda. A few of the suspects are believed to have received training during their brief trips abroad, disguised as medical or academic fellowships.

Security officials said at least a dozen medical professionals are under watch for possible complicity. "It is a frightening evolution of militancy — from guns in forests to bomb-makers in laboratories," they said.

Govt approves new royalty rates for critical minerals

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved rationalisation of royalty rates on graphite, caesium, rubidium and zirconium, aimed at boosting domestic production and promoting the auction.

The move will strengthen India's energy and supply chain security.

The royalty rates have been specified or revised as follows: caesium and rubidium will each attract a 2% royalty based on the average sale price (ASP) of the respective metal contained in the ore produced. Zirconium will have a royalty rate of 1% of ASP, while graphite will be charged 2% of ASP on an ad valorem basis for ore with 80% or more fixed carbon and 4% for ore with less than 80% fixed carbon.

Blocks of these four critical minerals will be auctioned, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told media persons after the Cabinet meeting.

The decision of the Cabinet will promote the auction of mineral blocks containing caesium, rubidium and zirconium, thereby not only unlocking these minerals but also associated critical minerals found with them, such as lithium, tungsten, REES, and niobium, among others.

The move is expected to boost domestic production, reduce import dependence and create employment opportunities.

Graphite, Caesium, Rubidium and Zirconium are important minerals for high-tech applications and energy transition. Graphite and Zirconium are also among the 24 critical and strategic minerals listed in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act), the statement said.

India tops global TB burden again; drug resistance a hurdle

WHO report says country accounts for 25% of cases worldwide

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India has once again topped the global tuberculosis burden, accounting for a quarter of all cases worldwide, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said in its latest report released on Wednesday.

According to the report, India's TB incidence rate now stands at 187 per one lakh population — an improvement from last year but still way short of the Union government's elimination target of reducing it to 77 cases per 1,00,000 people by 2025.

Similarly, TB mortality figures have improved marginally to 21 per lakh population, but remain more than three times higher than the elimination target set in the national TB report of the Union Health Ministry.

According to the WHO's Global Tuberculosis Report 2025, just eight countries contribute 67% of the global total, with India (25%) leading the chart, followed by Indonesia (10%), the Philippines (6.8%), China (6.5%) and Pakistan (6.3%). Others are Nigeria (4.8%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (3.9%) and Bangladesh (3.6%).

"While TB occurs in every part of the world, a major proportion of the people who develop the disease each year are in 30 high TB burden countries, which accounted for 87% of the global total in 2024," Tereza Kasaeva, Director, WHO Department for HIV, TB, Hepatitis, said in a statement.

"Five countries accounted for more than half of the worldwide total: India, Indonesia, the Philippines, China and Pakistan."

Worryingly, India also housed a third of the world's drug-resistant TB cases in 2024. Four nations accounted for more than half of the global cases of multidrug-resistant and Rifampicin-resistant TB in 2024: India (32%), China and the Philippines (both above 7%) and Russia (6.7%).

On the plus side, the number of people developing drug-resistant TB each year has been slowly declining. People with multidrug-resistant or Rifampicin-resistant TB accounted for 3.2% of the burden in 2024.

Over 1,64,000 people received treatment for drug-resistant TB in 2024. The latest data shows an improvement in the treatment success rate, to 71%, up from 68% the previous year.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018 announced India's TB elimination target deadline of 2025, which is five years ahead of the UN goal of ending TB by 2030.

Reacting to the WHO report, the Union Health Ministry said India achieved a higher reduction in TB mortality than the global reduction, while treatment coverage increased to 92%, placing India ahead of other high-burden countries and global universal health coverage. It said more than 26.18 lakh TB patients were diagnosed in 2024, out of an estimated incidence of 27 lakh cases. This has helped reduce the number of "missing cases" — those who had TB but were not reported to the programme.

CASE LOAD

- Incidence rate at 187 per lakh, far from 2025 elimination target
- Treatment coverage rises to 92%, yet incidence far above target
- Treatment success improves to 71% in 2024, up from 68%
- India, Indonesia, Philippines, China, Pakistan account for over half of cases

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Stray dogs: SC skips compassion question

The latest order by the Supreme Court on stray dogs is unrealistic and inhuman, and marks a regressive slide from its previous ruling on the matter. A three-judge bench has directed states and Union Territories to ensure that all stray dogs are removed from public spaces and relocated to designated shelters after sterilisation and vaccination. Earlier, this bench had modified the Court's draconian August 11 order and said dogs on the streets should be vaccinated, sterilised, and released back into their localities. It had been ordered that only dogs with rabies or those showing aggressive behaviour should be kept in shelters. This approach, too, had gaps in implementation, but was more realistic and compassionate than the previous directive to round up all dogs and permanently place them in shelters.

No government or civic body in the country has the resources and manpower to pick up all the dogs on the streets and ensure that they are removed from public spaces. Hundreds of crores of rupees will be needed to make all railway stations, bus stands, schools, etc., "stray dog-proof". It will also require thousands of trained personnel. How is it possible to keep the dogs off the highways? Dogs from other areas will replace the ones that are taken away. Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, provide for effective and humane management of stray animals through sterilisation and vaccination. If the dogs are a threat to human health or life, it is because of poor implementation of the Rules. Officials have been apathetic, and a shortage of funds has consistently hindered progress. In the absence of the resources to implement the judgement, the authorities are likely to turn to a default alternative – mass killing of dogs.

The ruling conflicts with animal welfare laws and the constitutional principle that all life deserves dignity

The order of the apex court does not agree with the existing ABC Rules. It can even be considered as being against the spirit of the Constitution, which recognises the sanctity of animal life, and says it is the duty of the citizens to protect animals and treat them with dignity. The Court has said in the past that Article 21, while safeguarding the rights of humans, protects life; life, here, means all life and includes animals. The judgement goes against this idea. It rises from the faulty notion that the earth belongs to humans and all other creatures are subordinate to them. The planet belongs as much to other living beings as to humans. Unfortunately, even the highest judiciary of the country does not apply the wisdom to acknowledge and uphold this truth.

BDA under RERA is an accountability win

The Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority's (RERA) decision to bring the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) under its ambit is a significant step towards transparency and accountability in public housing. Rejecting the BDA's contention that it is a statutory authority and not a "promoter", RERA rightly observed that the purpose of a project – for profit or otherwise – is immaterial when land is developed and sold to the public. In directing the BDA to register the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL) under RERA, the authority has struck at the heart of bureaucratic impunity that has long plagued Bengaluru's largest layout developer. Ironically, BDA officers themselves have admitted that the affidavit seeking exemption from RERA was filed by an advocate on record without the BDA's consent. Taking serious note, the BDA removed him, a telling sign of the internal disarray that has come to characterise the organisation.

For decades, the BDA – entrusted with guiding Bengaluru's planned growth – has become synonymous with irregularities, poor governance, and corruption. Its history is littered with scams: forged allotment letters, fake possession certificates, impersonation of original allottees, and even the existence of a 'parallel BDA office' that manufactured counterfeit documents using official seals. Such repeated scandals have eroded public trust and left thousands of homebuyers disillusioned. Since taking charge, Commissioner P. Manivannan has initiated some reforms to restore the agency's credibility. Long-pending issues in the Kempegowda and Arkavathy layouts are finally being resolved. Hundreds of Arkavathy allottees, who had waited nearly two decades for their sites, recently received them through a computerised randomisation process. In the Kempegowda Layout, where large stretches had remained without basic amenities, work has been fast-tracked, with BDA aiming for full completion by March 2026. Such measures may revive public confidence in the institution, but systemic accountability cannot rest on the shoulders of individuals.

Regulatory oversight can ensure greater scrutiny, restore public trust in the BDA's functioning

That is why bringing the BDA under RERA is not just desirable but inevitable. The Authority performs all the functions of a real estate promoter: acquiring land, developing layouts, collecting funds, and selling sites. It must therefore be bound by the same obligations as private developers. RERA oversight will compel the BDA to maintain project-specific accounts, disclose all approvals, adhere to timelines, and compensate allottees for delays. These are protections citizens have long been denied. The RERA order is, thus, a welcome move towards ensuring that a public authority finally becomes answerable to the very public it was created to serve.

NOSTALGIA OVER LOGIC

Heritage must not replace rigour in Mathematics

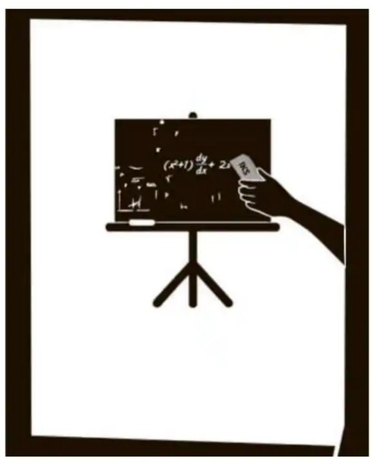
Draft curriculum's tilt towards ancient knowledge erodes analytical rigour and the foundations of proof-based reasoning

ARGHYA BANDYOPADHYAY

The University Grants Commission's (UGC) draft Mathematics Curriculum, 2025, unveiled in August, has triggered an unexpected upheaval in India's academic community. Framed under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the draft promises to create a "forward-looking" syllabus that offers students a "robust foundation in mathematical concepts and skills". Yet, behind this reformist language lies a troubling imbalance – an excessive tilt towards ancient Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) that risks eroding the very rigour on which mathematics must stand. At first glance, the draft appears well-intentioned. It proposes a structure for both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, claiming to align modern mathematics with India's intellectual heritage. Its stated goals – value-based education, interdisciplinarity, and integration with the IKS – sound entirely unobjectionable. But a closer look reveals a pattern of substitution rather than supplementation; it introduces courses that privilege cultural familiarity over analytical training, heritage over abstraction.

Supporters of the new framework claim it offers a holistic blend of classical wisdom and modern science. Core areas like calculus, algebra, analysis, probability, and differential equations remain, alongside electives in computational and data science. A final-year research project for BSc (Honours) students is a welcome move to promote inquiry and research. Yet, the real shift lies elsewhere. The draft introduces courses such as *Kala Ganana* (traditional timekeeping), *Bharatiya Bijganit* (Indian algebra), *Śulba Sūtras* (geometric rules), and Philosophy of Indian Mathematics, with readings from *Sūrya Siddhānta* and *Āryabhaṭīyam*. Framed as steps towards "decolonising" the curriculum, they signal a philosophical turn – from mathematics as a universal language of logic to a vehicle of cultural identity.

Studying ancient mathematical traditions is valuable, but making them central to the same curriculum as modern analytical mathematics risks diluting conceptual rigour. *Sutra*-based methods or cosmic time cycles may enrich cultural understanding but contribute little to mastering Linear Algebra, Topology, or Numerical Analysis. Many topics, like the *Śulba Sūtras* early form of the Pythagorean theorem, are already taught in school. More debatable are the inclusions like *Kala Ganana* and *Pañchāṅga* which blur the lines between astronomy and astrology. Making them credit-bearing courses undermines disciplinary clarity, leaving students ill-prepared for JAM, NET, or international PG programmes that prize abstraction and proof.



India's contributions to mathematics are beyond question – from the invention of zero and the decimal system to the pioneering works of Brahmagupta and Bhāskara II. Yet, to honour this heritage meaningfully, it must be understood within the continuum of mathematical thought, not as a substitute for modern discoveries. Brahmagupta's insights on division by zero, or Bhāskara's innovations in algebra and number theory, prefigured ideas later explored by Euler, Bernoulli, and Goldbach. These connections belong in courses on the history and philosophy of mathematics, where ideas are studied contextually, not as relics or replacements for analytical reasoning. The question is not whether ancient Indian mathematics deserves inclusion – it certainly does – but how it should be integrated.

To privilege *sutra*-based instruction or to treat Sanskrit *shlokas* as proofs confuses cultural pride with scientific education. Mathematics thrives on precision, abstraction, and logical generalisation – qualities vital in today's technological world. In an era shaped by AI, ML, and data science, India's students must master Algebra, Analysis, Probability, Differential and Integral Equations, Optimisation, Discrete Mathematics, and Information Theory – the mathematical core needed in forecasting natural hazards, studying climate change, understanding cryptography, and finance. Overemphasising heritage at the expense of such a foundation risks producing graduates rich in nostalgia but poor in analytical power – a loss both academic and economic.

Finding a better balance

A balanced approach is essential. India's mathematical heritage should be celebrated through electives or interdisciplinary courses linking Mathematics, Sanskrit, History, and Philosophy. Exploring ideas like zero or infinity across cultures can enrich understanding without diluting rigour. Mathematics must stay universal – rooted in proof, abstraction, and precision. Framing it as cultural identity risks reducing a global discipline to symbolism and weakening its analytical foundation.

India's true mathematical heritage rests on diligence and inquiry, not on rote recitation. Ancient scholars such as Āryabhata, Brahmagupta, and Bāskara were innovators who questioned, calculated, and experimented. To honour them is to uphold their spirit of rational curiosity, not merely chant their formulas. Students may study the *Śulba Sūtras*, but they must also master vector spaces, partial differential equations, and eigenvalue problems. They should admire Ramanujan's mathematics while writing optimisation codes or while modelling cancer research. Heritage can enrich education but never replace rigour. Mathematics is a way of reasoning, demanding clarity, consistency, and proof – the very traits that built India's intellectual past. Abandoning these in the name of revival would betray that legacy.

India stands at a crossroads. One path seeks to turn education into cultural reaffirmation; the other prepares students for a world driven by scientific reasoning. True confidence comes from engaging globally in knowledge creation. A modern mathematics syllabus must preserve rigour, promote research, and inspire innovation. India's mathematical heritage should enrich, not replace, proof-based reasoning and computational precision.

As the UGC finalises its framework, it must decide whether students will memorise ancient *shlokas* or design the scope of future mathematics. The answer will shape the roadmap of Indian Mathematics and mathematicians.

(The writer is Principal, Khalisani College, Chandannagar, Hooghly, West Bengal)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

In search of my address

Forget the mailing address; what is my living address?

INDU SURYANARAYAN

Recently, I lifted up my address, which I knew as a flat sheet of paper, the way I lift the kitchen area rug to sweep off the dirt. On lifting up the paper flat address, I was surprised to see it was not on a sheet of paper at all but a round that looked like a globe. It was even going round and round! A phenomenon, no doubt, but then was it not this same way that what was supposed to be a flat earth was discovered to be round after all? That was universal science, but my discovery was only an insignificant self-revelation.

I know where I am living, that my mailing address is made up of three short lines, which tells me I live in a small coastal New England town in the smallest of the United States. Often overriding this is the solid address in Bengaluru's Shankarpuram, where I grew up. This was the address that mattered in a life lived among loved ones. There was no problem with my knowing where I lived.

However, in course of time, one flat address changed into another flat address, and that was the origin of the problem. Migration, marriage, children and family life, all spread over five-six decades. A new address was inevitable. This shift was followed by another change when the busy home turned into an empty nest. That is when time dragged and the problem of the correct address raised its head. I have to wonder constantly where I am. When I wake up, I pray to gods who are all in India. "With Narasimha in front, Krishna at back, and Rama and Lakshmana on either side, I get up, for what have I to fear?" Yes, that's how I take one arthritic step after another every morning.

Then comes the daily bath. Routine, of course, wherever I am. Now, I invoke the waters from India once again. "*Gange ca Yamune caiva Godāvari Sarasvati Narmade Sindhu Kāveri jale'smin sannidhim kuru.*" Thus my mind travels like a flowing river from one place to another.

I am here in one place where I know I exist in a complete way; I cannot dispute that. But then I find myself in places that are just as real and true to my soul, places that live inside me and sometimes become more important than the place I am living in. Is there any wonder if my thoughts begin to spin in my head one fall morning as I sit down in the gliding chair by the sliding glass doors of the patio with a cup of hot coffee to watch the sun rise? At that moment, I ask myself, "Where am I really?" Forget the mailing address; what is my living address? I ask this question, for I see only one sun rising above wherever I am and one squirrel that could be anywhere in the world scuttling in and out of view this minute. What is my address, really?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Terror in the capital sends a chilling message

The car explosion near Delhi's Red Fort, which claimed at least 12 lives and injured many, has once again exposed the grim reality of terrorism and the gaps in our internal security system. It is deeply concerning that such an incident occurred at one of India's most secure and iconic landmarks. How could a car loaded with explosives reach such a sensitive area without being detected? This shocking lapse raises serious questions about the vigilance of our security forces and intelligence agencies. The Red Fort is not just a monument; it represents the pride and power of the nation. An attack in its vicinity sends a chilling message about our preparedness to prevent terror activities. Despite advanced surveillance systems and regular security checks, the incident reveals weaknesses that demand immediate review and correction. This event must serve as a lesson for the authorities. Strengthening intelligence networks, tightening vehicle screening near high-security zones, and ensuring better coordination between central and state agencies are essential. The people of India deserve assurance that their safety is prioritised over complacency.

Vishal Mayur, Tumakuru

Set an example

Apropos 'The white-collar terror module...' (Nov 12), it is a travesty that doctors, who are supposed to save lives, turned out to be killers. These terrorists have brought ignominy to the noblest of professions. The government should deal with the others involved with an iron hand, so that such dastardly and inhuman acts are not repeated under any circumstances.

M Basavaraj, Davangere

Rot of corruption

It is ironic that Parappana Agrahara Central Jail in Bengaluru, meant to punish offenders for their misdeeds, has turned into a haven of privilege. Instead of serving sentences, certain inmates reportedly enjoy VIP treatment, complete with luxury amenities and even parties behind bars. Despite repeated exposés, inquiries, and disciplinary action against errant jail officials, the rot persists, revealing deep-rooted corruption and systemic failure. The continued indulgence in such practices mocks the justice system, undermines public faith, and turns prisons into playgrounds for the powerful rather than places of reform. Accountability must replace impunity to restore credibility in governance.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

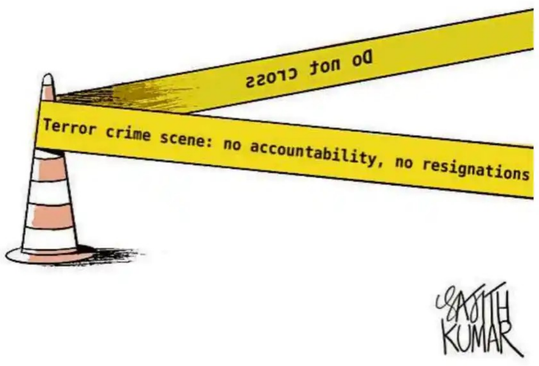
SPEAK OUT

I have done so much for Kurubas. I have also worked for the upliftment of Dalits, other backward classes and minorities.

Siddaramaiah, Karnataka CM

The credit you give yourself is not worth having.
Irving Thalberg

TO BE PRECISE



GAUTH KUMAR

IN PERSPECTIVE

Ayni exit and India's lost leverage

Retreat from the airbase in Tajikistan dilutes India's influence in a region dominated by Russia and China

AYUSHI SAINI

New Delhi's quiet withdrawal from the Ayni Airbase in Tajikistan may appear procedural, but it is a strategic setback with deep geopolitical undertones. For over two decades, Ayni stood as India's lone military outpost overseas, symbolising ambition and reach in the turbulent heart of Eurasia in the 2000s. Established in 2008 at the Gissar Military Aerodrome, near the Tajik-Afghan border, the base provided India with a rare vantage point to monitor developments in Afghanistan, particularly during the post-9/11 realignment and the subsequent political transformation in 2001.

The clarification from the Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the lease ending in 2022 came at a moment of renewed instability in the subcontinent. The Pahalgam attack, followed by Operation Sindoor, reignited old insecurities regarding cross-border terrorism. Against this backdrop, India's exit from its only strategic foothold in Central Asia is not just symbolic; it narrows New Delhi's operational depth and shrinks its geopolitical visibility in a region increasingly dominated by Russia and China.

Located about 10 km west of Dushanbe, the Soviet-built Ayni Airbase served Moscow's Afghan campaign from 1979 to 1989, before falling into neglect after the USSR's disintegration. India revived it in 2002 during the War on Terror, investing around $70-100 million to modernise its infrastructure, extend its runway, and make it capable of hosting Su-30 MKI jets and Mi-17 helicopters.

Geographically, Ayni provided India with a strategic foothold, located around 500 km from Peshawar and within reconnaissance range of Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor. This made it a crucial hub for monitoring terror networks and supporting humanitarian missions.

The airbase enabled India to coordinate efforts with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and provide support to Afghan forces, while also closely monitoring regional developments, particularly those originating from Pakistan and China. The base was instrumental in securing India's interests in the broader context of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and in maintaining an anti-terror stance. The subtext to the official description – "a natural conclusion of a lease agreement" – suggests external pressure and internal recalibration were at play.

First, the base was highly important when the Northern Alliance came to power in Afghanistan in 2001. India supported the government against Taliban-led terror activities back then. During this time, India was still helping Tajikistan renovate the base and came to formalise the Indian presence in 2008. However, after the de facto recognition of the Taliban, it doesn't make sense for India to have an airbase originally intended to root out the Taliban.

Second, India's power projection in the Central Asian region is in question, given the significant presence of China and Russia in the region. Russia, which has stationed over 7,000 troops in Tajikistan under its 201st Motor Rifle Division, long viewed the Indian-operated base outside the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) framework with quiet unease and withheld approval for India's deployment in 2007. China, meanwhile, regarded Ayni as a potential surveillance threat near its sensitive western frontier. With Tajikistan heavily dependent on Russian military protection and over $3 billion in Chinese loans, the growing convergence of Moscow and Beijing's interests, tightened further after Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, left little room for India, making its exit from Ayni almost inevitable.

Third, the diminishing importance of Central Asia in India's foreign policy calculus could be a reason for the loss of momentum in maintaining a military base in Tajikistan.

A new, strategic pivot

Though India's operations from Ayni had been limited for years, the base held enduring strategic value amid a volatile neighbourhood. Its closure signals not just the end of India's physical presence in Central Asia but a loss of symbolic power projection and surveillance capability in a region now dominated by Russia and China. The move weakens India's security profile in Eurasia and marginally dilutes its bilateral engagement with Tajikistan. More broadly, the loss of Ayni curtails India's ability to monitor developments in Afghanistan and Pakistan, two theatres central to its regional security calculus.

Once a symbol of ambition, Ayni had long ceased to be an active strategic asset. For Tajikistan, India's withdrawal reinforces the primacy of CSTO-led security. For India, it highlights the limitations of its presence in a region still dominated by Russian and Chinese influence. India's Eurasian engagement must now pivot from static security footprints to dynamic economic, technological, and people-centric partnerships. Central Asia should remain integral to India's foreign policy vision, not as a lost frontier, but as a region where renewed engagement can still yield strategic dividends.

(The writer is a research consultant at the Chintan Research Foundation, New Delhi. She researches Central Asia)

Smog smothers Delhi-NCR, but satellite cities don't get due attention

DATELINE New Delhi

KALYAN RAY

With Delhi's air quality index breaching the 400 mark on a scale of 500, the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas has imposed a set of strict anti-pollution measures – known as Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)-3. If the air quality deteriorates further, stricter norms (GRAP-4), under which the state governments can consider closing down schools for a few days, may also be in play. But all of these are essentially band-aid solutions to a problem that gets little attention from governments during the rest of the year when the air is cleaner.

For over a decade, the Narendra Modi government at the Centre has spoken of cleaning up the air that lakhs of residents in Delhi and its satellite cities—Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram, Faridabad and Greater Noida—are forced to breathe for nearly two months at the onset of every winter. Even after four Union environment ministers in 11 years, the formation of the CAQM in 2020 by an Act of Parliament, and repeated observations by the Supreme Court, the situation on the ground remains unchanged.

There are, in fact, two sets of realities—one for Delhi and another for satellite cities—though they share the same airshed. Each of India's 10 most polluted cities lies in the National Capital Region (NCR), with Dharuhera on the Haryana-Rajasthan border topping the list and Delhi ranking sixth. Others on the list are Rohtak, Ghaziabad, Noida, Ballabgarh, Bhiwadi, Greater Noida, Hapur and Gurugram. Four of these are in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh and four in Haryana, but little is said about them compared to Punjab – ruled by the Aam Aadmi Party – and Haryana, where stubble-burning remains a recurring issue for five to six weeks each year.

The October air pollution rankings are based on an analysis by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), which uses data from the Central Pollution Control Board for 212 cities. These cities have been reporting PM2.5 concentrations below the National Ambient Air Quality Standards of 60 micrograms per cubic metre. These cities were chosen for analysis as they reported continuous data for more than 80% of the days.

According to the CREA analysis, Dharuhera recorded a PM2.5 concentration of 123 micrograms per cubic metre, compared to Delhi's 107, Noida's 112 and Ghaziabad's 114.

Studies show that the transport sector is the leading source of PM2.5 emissions, particularly during winter. Vehicles are also a major source of greenhouse gas pollution, and as traffic slows during peak hours (5 pm-9 pm), pollution levels rise sharply.

Yet little has been done to establish an efficient and affordable bus service within the NCR or to link Delhi with its satellite cities. While the Delhi Metro offers excellent connectivity, its reach into the satellite cities is limited with poor last-mile connectivity issues. This has led to overdependence on private vehicles, auto rickshaws, taxis, and ride-hailing services.

An increasing number of vehicles on the roads cannot be a solution to Delhi's worsening air. According to the official data, Delhi has nearly 80 lakh registered vehicles, with more than 11 lakh entering and exiting daily. The bus fleet, on the other hand, is woefully inadequate for Delhi and virtually non-existent within the satellite cities. There are virtually no reliable bus services connecting Noida, Gurugram and Ghaziabad, from where lakhs of commuters travel to Delhi every day. Poorly maintained roads and potholes make matters worse.

Way back in 1998, the Supreme Court had directed the Delhi Transport Corporation to maintain a fleet of 10,000 buses. Nearly three decades later, that target is yet to be met. Delhi has just 45 buses per lakh population (as per the 2011 Census), far short of the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' benchmark of 60 buses. In contrast, London has 90 buses per lakh population, Hong Kong has 80, Shanghai 69, and Seoul 72.

Dust control is another poorly addressed problem. Though road-sweeping vehicles and water sprinkling are in use on some roads, a simpler and more sustainable solution—landscaping—has been largely ignored. Consulting botanists to identify fast-growing, low-cost grasses and hedge species and planting them in open areas across NCR cities could significantly reduce dust in the air. If done before or during the monsoon, these green buffers would mature by winter, helping to trap dust and improve air quality.

After years of neglecting this simple, straightforward solution, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has finally instructed NCR authorities this week "to undertake roadside greening works on a mission mode so as to minimise dust generation."

A third, lesser-known problem is the inadequate pollution monitoring data. While there have been allegations against the BJP government in Delhi of manipulating air quality data, Noida, Gurugram, Ghaziabad and Faridabad have too few monitoring stations to present an accurate picture.

For instance, Delhi, covering 1,483 sq km, has 39 monitoring stations. In comparison, Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar district (1442 sq km), which includes Noida and Greater Noida, has only six. The total number of such stations in GB Nagar, Gurugram, Ghaziabad, and Faridabad is less than half of Delhi's. Dharuhera, the most polluting city in the NCR, has only one.
DHNS

The shake-up in China's armed forces comes as both Beijing and Washington are pushing through major changes in their country's militaries, in different ways

DAVID PIERSON

China held a military parade in September to showcase its growing might. Xi has carried out a cleanup of the PLA that has shaken the Rocket Force, which oversees China's nuclear forces. FILE PHOTO/REUTERS

Xi's military purges rattle the nuclear order

China's nuclear forces are expanding quickly. Yet behind that rise, the top leader Xi Jinping's sweeping purge of generals and military leaders has exposed deep-seated corruption and raised questions about the country's ability to manage its growing arsenal. The uncertainty adds to concerns about a new era of volatility in global nuclear politics, as President Donald Trump has called for renewed US testing and as Washington is also pushing through major changes in its military.

Trump's defence secretary, Pete Hegseth, has fired or sidelined at least two dozen generals and admirals over the past nine months, actions that are without precedent in recent decades, and have come with little explanation. The shake-up has raised fears of growing political interference in a military that has long prided itself on being apolitical.

In Beijing, Xi's purges in the People's Liberation Army cut far deeper. He has carried out a cleanup that has shaken the Rocket Force, the branch that oversees China's nuclear forces and is a crucial part of Xi's ambition to build a "world-class military" by 2049. Top commanders have disappeared. Others have been jailed. And defence contractors have been stripped of their party titles and detained for investigation.

While Trump and Hegseth's motivations in reshaping the US military are not entirely clear, Xi's purges stem from a lesson he has drawn from history: that the Communist Party survives only when the army obeys one leader without question.

Early in his rule, Xi warned that the Soviet Union collapsed because the party lost control of its military and no "real man" had stepped forward, noted Joseph Torigian, an associate professor at American University who has studied Chinese leaders' relations with the military.

His military purges likely reflect his obsession with preparing for worst-case scenarios at home and abroad, whether it is protests over economic problems or political suppression, or needing to fight the United States in a war over Taiwan, the democratically governed island Beijing claims as its territory.

"So what's the biggest threat to building a military that can defeat competitors within the elite, people in the streets, and the Americans in a war?" Torigian wrote in an email. "Corruption is the 'key link.'"

Xi thinks materialism and corruption are a direct threat to the military's ability to defeat enemies, Torigian said. "In Xi's mind, it makes members of the military vulnerable to Western infiltration, whether literally in terms of becoming an agent, or because Western values lead to a desire to 'nationalise' the military and split it from party control."

In a commentary Tuesday, the official newspaper of the People's Liberation Army wrote: "For our military, the fight against corruption is a major political struggle that it cannot afford to lose, and must not lose. It concerns the long-term stability of the party and the country, and it concerns ensuring the socialist red state never changes colour."

That also highlights a major difference between the functions of the militaries in both countries: In China, the military is built to defend the ruling party, primarily; in the United States, it is meant to defend the entire nation and to stand apart from politics.

The ousters in China reveal serious dysfunction in the military and muddy confidence in its war readiness. It also suggests that the People's Liberation Army, or PLA, may be one of the few organizations that Xi, arguably China's most powerful leader since Mao Zedong, has failed to bring under his control.

"Corruption has been a very real problem for the PLA, and it is, in fact, corrosive for the military, which is why Xi is serious about uprooting it," said Jonathan Czin, a researcher at the Brookings Institution who previously worked at the CIA analysing Chinese politics.

When Xi came to power in 2012, the Chinese military was plagued with an image problem as a hotbed of corruption. Senior commanders funded lavish lifestyles through bribery and embezzlement. Promotions were commonly up for sale. And military license plates were sold to civilians as they gave their owners near impunity on China's roads.

Xi vowed to professionalise the PLA and ensure that it answered to him as head of the party; he quickly removed rival factions led by commanders that were loyal to past leaders. A decade later, the house cleaning has only intensified, even ensnaring senior leaders who were handpicked by Xi. That includes Gen He Weidong, who was third in China's military hierarchy when he was expelled from the party on October 17, accused of corruption and abuse of power.

Other expelled generals included Adm Miao Hua, who oversaw political discipline in the military and was placed under investigation last year. Another was Gen Lin Xiangyang, who was in charge of the Eastern Theater Command, which is central to any war over Taiwan.

Perhaps most troubling for Xi are the signs of corruption in the Rocket Force, which controls nearly all of China's nuclear missiles and had been considered one of the crown jewels of the Chinese military. Since 2023, the branch has been rocked by a series of purges of senior commanders over corruption that have raised questions about its effectiveness. A Pentagon report last year said fraud in the Rocket Force led to problems involving the construction of underground missile silos.

Analysts say the branch is ripe for corruption because it maintains one of the largest budgets in the Chinese military. Unlike warplanes and tanks, missiles are also rarely tested, increasing the difficulty in detecting malfeasance.

Some analysts say corruption in the Rocket Force may also be fuelled by scepticism that China will ever go to war. Were there a greater sense of urgency, they argue, there would probably be less chance that defence contractors would cut corners and military leaders would line their pockets.

At the same time, China's military modernization has been advancing apace. A military parade in Beijing this year showed off some of the country's latest drones, unmanned submarines and hypersonic missiles. Also displayed were the latest ICBMs, a reminder of China's nuclear weapons buildup that could see the country nearly double its arsenal by 2030.

Even though both the US and Chinese militaries are undergoing high-level leadership changes, they each still have deep benches of senior officers to draw from, said Czin of Brookings.

The question, though, is whether their leaders' preoccupations are eroding focus on core missions: China's drive to take Taiwan, and America's effort to deter it.

Xi regards the United States as the chief obstacle in realizing his goal of unifying Taiwan with China. US intelligence officials have said that Xi has ordered that the Chinese military be capable of seizing the self-governed island by 2027, which will be the 100th anniversary of the founding of the PLA.

The Rocket Force plays prominently in those plans. China has developed anti-ship missiles, known as "carrier killers," aimed at blocking US aircraft carrier groups from the battle zone in a conflict over Taiwan. It has also built hypersonic missiles designed to strike US bases across the Pacific, including in Guam, the Philippines, South Korea and Japan.

A bipartisan, congressionally appointed commission warned last year that China was surpassing the United States in military advantage in the Western Pacific because of two decades of focused investment. "Without significant change by the United States, the balance of power will continue to shift in China's favour," the Commission on the National Defence Strategy said.

For China, however, countering the US military is the "first, second and third priority," Czin said.
The New York Times

Trust in the digital age

KEN JON MIYACHI

In September 2025, a 57-year-old woman from Bengaluru was browsing YouTube when she came across a message from spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev. In the video, he appeared to endorse a trading platform promising large financial gains for a$250 investment. Believing the message to be genuine, the woman engaged with two representatives from the firm over Zoom for nearly two months, ultimately transferring a total of Rs 3.75 crore (about US$450,000). It was only five months later, when she tried to withdraw her supposed profits, that she realised she had been scammed.

While this may seem like a particularly egregious case of deepfake fraud, it is far from unique. Earlier that year, another victim lost Rs 1.43 crore to a similar deepfake investment scam. Together, these cases highlight the growing threat posed by deepfakes--not only extracting large sums of money but also in harassing public figures and manipulating voter perceptions during elections.

Polling from last April hints at the scale of the problem. As many as three-quarters of Indians who engage with online content reported exposure to deepfakes over the last 12 months, with over one-third (38%) encountering a deepfake scam in that period. The public is understandably anxious: 86% of respondents to a in July 2024 survey said they feared misinformation and deepfakes could shape future elections.

Of course, deepfakes are not a problem confined to India or South Asia. In early 2024, a Hong Kong employee of the British engineering firm Arup fell victim to a deepfake scam in which fraudsters impersonated senior executives on a video call, resulting in a loss of US$25 million.

The financial impact of such scams is staggering. Losses linked to deepfake fraud in the US financial sector alone were estimated at around US$158 billion in 2023. Even more concerning is the rapid escalation in frequency. Deepfake content on social media surged by 550% between 2019 and 2023, with the number of global deepfakes detected quadrupling in 2024 alone.

While deepfakes are a truly global problem, South Asia is particularly vulnerable. India has 650–700m smartphone users --second only to China--while Pakistan has around 73 million. Despite a young and tech-savvy population, AI literacy remains low, leaving millions ill-equipped to identify or comprehend deepfakes.

As the Hong Kong scam shows, existing consumer protection mechanisms are outdated. They are leargely built to tackle traditional forms of deception such as forgery, misleading claims, or phone and email impersonation--not hyper-realistic, AI-generated impersonations. The absence of effective protective framework is compounded by fragmented regulation and a lack of dedicated deepfake laws or commonly accepted global standards. In countries like India, law enforcement agencies simply do not have the tools, knowledge or capacity to investigate large-scale, often cross-border, deepfake crimes.

Fortunately, technology can also be part of the solution. Decentralised AI detection tools make it harder for fraudsters to create convincing fakes. For example, biometric verification (such as iris scanning) can be stored on a blockchain to confirm that a person is human rather than an AI bot. Similarly, self-sovereign identity (SSI) systems--digital IDs built on blockchain--can make tampering nearly impossible. Under such a system, anyone joining a phone or video call would need to "check in" using a verified SSI signature before proceeding.

However, even the best technological solutions cannot succeed in isolation. Users should play their part--verifying videos against official sources, remaining sceptical of unsolicited financial offers, confirming identities through offline channels, using strong passwords, and watching for subtle visual or audio inconsistencies.

More broadly, we must redouble efforts to improve financial and AI literacy at both national and local levels to reduce societal vulnerability to deepfake scams, particularly in India, Pakistan and Nepal, where digital literacy remains low. This will require closer coordination between the public and private sectors, including tech firms, regulators and civil society groups. Together, these actors can develop robust real-time detection systems and standardised protocols to take the fight to deepfake perpetrators--and win.

Deepfakes have already caused serious harm to individuals and society. With the threat growing rapidly, the situation could soon spiral out of control. A world where deepfakes erode trust in public figures and cultural icons, fracture and polarise our communities and destabilise economies and national security is not hypothetical--it is imminent. Confronting this reality with clarity, cooperation and resolve, and leveraging the tools at our disposal, is essential if society is to thrive in the age of deepfakes.

(The writer is the founder of a company that builds decentralised systems for AI-powered deepfake detection)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 1975

13-judge SC bench dissolved

New Delhi, November 12
In a dramatic development this morning, Chief Justice A.N. Ray dissolved the 13-judge Bench of the Supreme Court formed to review the Kesavananda Bharati case judgement of 1973. As soon as the court assembled on the third day of the hearing, the Chief Justice observed: "We find the arguments are in the air. Therefore, this Bench is dissolved." He further observed, "The Andhra Pradesh matter (in which the issue of basic structure of the Constitution was raised) will be heard by a Constitution Bench."

25 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 2000

Decks cleared for TV rights case

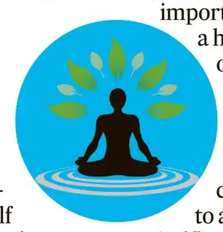
New Delhi, Nov 12 (PTI)
Decks have been cleared for the CBI to file another case in the cricket-related scandal, this time to probe alleged bungling by Doordarshan in allotment of rights to telecast matches, according to CBI sources. They said the CBI's anti-corruption unit is likely to register either a preliminary enquiry (PE) or an FIR soon to probe the allegations. The national network is alleged to have sold the television rights to private firms despite having all facilities to do the work themselves.

OASIS | MEERA SESHADRI

Shimmering flame of resilience

A few years ago, a friend had found herself in a fragile state, being fiercely blitzed by a number of flustering issues, when a freak accident had claimed her spouse's life. Reeling under the tragedy's ravages and ramifications, she'd often talk about how the unexpected event, being unsettling and unnerving, had unhinged a little universe built by her.

Slowly, she tried sloughing off self-pity and started seeing how even her solitary existence could be of some significance to several others, since she was already into rendering services to a spastic society during her spare time. Soon, her melancholic life appeared to gain momentum, offering her emotional comfort, as she got more involved with her meaningful and magnificent work.



And then, yet another friend had extricated herself from a bad marriage when her child was just 18 months. Gradually, gathering wits, garnering support from genuine relations, she galvanised herself into getting on in life, with grit and gumption. Her life, which looked bleak and baleful in the beginning, soon blossomed into a beautiful one, with her being busily engaged in a blizzard of activities. Eventually, she even embarked on an exciting expedition by opening an eco-friendly store. Most importantly, she has always been a huge support to her 26-year-old daughter. Truly, "To the world, you may be someone; but, to someone, you are the world!"

Surely, such superhumans can rightfully be compared to a splendid lamp, while their 'selfless life' is like the lamp's 'shimmering flame'.

The lamp, by itself, may be of little worth. But, by its luminous light, it can proffer lashings of lustrous glow to things around. If the lamp's oil is symbolic of the spirit, spunk, and steely persona of these humans, the lamp's slender wick could be equated with the whopping love of their well-wishers.

Yes, besides the oil and wick, the lamp also needs oxygen to remain lighted for a long time. This oxygen is analogous with ample 'self-care' – a cardinal aspect to which these humans have always affixed value; a person can tend to others with extreme care/love only if s/he is exceedingly fit! After all, holding an empty vessel, one cannot simply expect to serve others the epicurean delicacies!

SC refers anticipatory bail jurisdiction issue to three-judge bench

Top court questions if high courts can be approached directly for pre-arrest bail

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday referred to a three-judge bench the issue of whether approaching the High Courts for anticipatory bail is the "choice of the party" or whether moving the Sessions Court first is mandatory.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said the matter should be listed for hearing as and when the three-judge bench is constituted.

"This matter requires to be heard by a three-judge bench," the bench said.

The court had earlier appointed senior advocate Sidharth Luthra as amicus curiae in the matter.

On September 8, 2025, the SC took exception to the Kerala High Court directly entertaining a plea for pre-arrest bail without the accused first approaching the Sessions Court.

"If the practice of entertaining applications for pre-arrest bail directly in the High Court is encouraged, and the parties concerned are not relegated to first approach the Sessions Court concerned, the High Court would be flooded with a spate of pre-arrest bail applications, thereby creating a chaotic situation," the court had said.

Dealing with a plea filed by Mohammed Rasal C and another, the court made absolute the interim protection granted to the petitioners on May 5, 2025.

Having noted that the petitioners had directly approached the HC without first moving the Sessions Court, the bench issued notice to the HC through its Registrar General.

The court emphasised that if parties are required to approach the Sessions Court concerned for pre-arrest bail, there is a strong likelihood that a significant number of applications would be granted at that level, thereby serving as a filtration process before the matter reaches the High Court.

"Though concurrent jurisdiction is conferred upon the Sessions Court and the High Court to entertain a prayer for pre-arrest bail under Section 482 of the BNSS, the hierarchy of courts demands that no person seeking such remedy should be encouraged or allowed to directly approach the HC by bypassing the jurisdiction of the concerned Sessions Court," the bench observed.

The court noted that, in most states, there is a consistent practice requiring litigants to first approach the Sessions Court for pre-arrest bail and only, in case of rejection, to move the High Court for relief.

"This is, of course, subject to just exceptions," the bench added.

Guj court hands life sentence to 3 in cow slaughter case

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

A sessions court in Gujarat's Amreli district on Tuesday sentenced three people to life imprisonment for cow slaughter.

The court, while holding them guilty of cow slaughter, observed that the convicts did it despite knowing that cows are considered sacred in Hinduism.

On Wednesday, the state government hailed the verdict as 'historic' and said the government was committed to protecting the cow, which is the centre of Indian culture and faith and the state government will have no mercy for such crimes.

Minister Jitu Vaghani said under the then CM Narendra Modi, the government made the cow slaughter law strict in 2011. In 2017, the law was amended and the jail term was increased from a maximum of seven years to life imprisonment.

The statement said the judgment was a "clear message" for anyone offending the law.

The principal district and sessions judge held Kasim Haji Solanki (20), Sattar Ismail Solanki (52), and Akram Haji Solanki (30) guilty under various sections of Gujarat Preservation (Amendment) Act, 2017, that prohibit cow slaughtering and sections of IPC, including 429 and 114.

Kerala nun who fought against harassment to become lawyer

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Lucy Kalapura

In her fight against harassment faced by nuns, Sister Lucy Kalapura from Kerala has now acquired a degree in law.

Sister Kalapura of the Mananthavady diocese at Wayanad in North Kerala successfully completed a three-year degree course in law from the Sree Narayana Law College at Poothotta near Kochi. Her enrollment is scheduled for December 20.

Kalapura invited the wrath of the church heads by taking part in the stir by a group of nuns seeking action against former Jalandhar bishop Franco Mulakkal, who was accused of sexually assaulting a nun.

In her autobiography 'Karthavinte Namathil (In the name of Christ), Kalapura alleged that many nuns were sexually harassed by priests, adding that there were attempts to sexually harass her.

Even as she was expelled from the Franciscan Clarist Congregation under the Roman Catholic Church in 2021, she obtained an injunction from the court and was continuing to stay at the convent at Karakkamala in Wayanad. Kalapura herself presented her case before the Kerala High Court after her lawyer backed out from appearing for her.

Kalapura, who was serving as a school teacher, decided to pursue a law course after she retired from service in 2022.

"I had a desire to learn law, but I never dreamt that I would be able to obtain a degree in law. It could be my pursuit of justice for the nuns that led the way to becoming a lawyer," Kalappura told *DH*.

She also said that she would initially start her career as a lawyer by practicing under a senior lawyer. Later, she may try to use her profession to get justice for nuns and other marginalised sections.

Prakash Raj questioned by Telangana SIT in online betting app case

HYDERABAD, PTI: Actor Prakash Raj on Wednesday appeared before the Telangana government's Special Investigation Team (SIT) here in connection with a case related to the alleged promotion of an online betting application, police said.

The Telangana government had constituted the SIT under the overall supervision of the Additional Director General of Police, CID, to curb illegal betting activities and for thorough investigation of online betting app cases.

Speaking to reporters after being questioned by the officials, Raj said he did an advertisement for an app in 2016 before betting had begun. He withdrew from it when betting started and did not take payment, he added.

Prakash Raj

Observing that he had earlier appeared before the Enforcement Directorate in connection with the issue, the actor said a member of the public had complained to the CID.

"In connection with that (case), they called me. I spoke to them. It was banned in 2017. (I told them) that betting did not start in 2016, and we did it (advertisement) thinking that it was a game. We realised later. I did not continue because the betting app is wrong. I gave the details (to the officials)," he said.

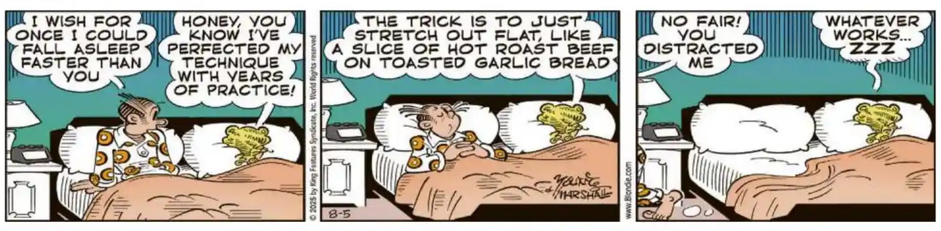
Raj said the officials asked him if he worked for any other company involved in betting, to which he replied negatively.

Under the Telangana Gaming Act of 2017, all forms of online betting are prohibited.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie


I WISH FOR ONCE I COULD FALL ASLEEP FASTER THAN YOU
HONEY, YOU KNOW I'VE PERFECTED MY TECHNIQUE WITH YEARS OF PRACTICE!
THE TRICK IS TO JUST STRETCH OUT FLAT, LIKE A SLICE OF HOT ROAST BEEF ON TOASTED GARLIC BREAD
NO FAIR! YOU DISTRACTED ME
WHATEVER WORKS... ZZZ
8-5

Hagar The Horrible

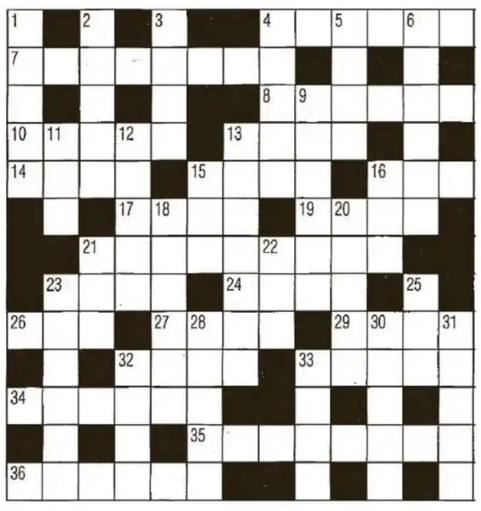
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

SALLY, DO YOU BELIEVE IN UFO'S?
NO!
I THINK THE WHOLE IDEA OF CREATURES OF SUPERIOR INTELLIGENCE TRYING TO CONTACT US IS STUPID!
MY MOTHER TRIED TO CALL ME ON THE PHONE THIS MORNING

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12287



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 With the very soft pencil lead about to break, don't work too hard! (6)
7 Praiseworthy, suggestedly fit for a peerage? (8)
8 A man keeping Zoe short - that dangerous woman! (6)
10 Read music (5)
13 Beat at golf, possibly? (4)
14 He's out of work, but don't despair! (4)
15 It's in different ways that they're cleverly amusing (4)
16 West of Florida, perhaps, you'll find the solution (3)
17 French dwarf, maybe? (4)
19 Though old, managed without a servant (4)
21 Bloomer in an auto race (9)
23 Nominally, she may seem to have dropped an H (4)
24 Crazy, yet possibly having a motive (4)
26 Such a lot is no fortune! (3)
27 Mariner's means of preservation (4)
29 One given a bashing at the cookhouse? (4)
32 Refuse hidden in the garden, you know (4)
33 Water, but there's a certain amount of wine on the way (5)
34 Bobby's letter to the aforesaid robber (6)
35 Something put on (to cover a fiddle?) (8)
36 Irving's city? (6)

DOWN
1 Wash one hand? (5)
2 Provide the money to accommodate someone (3,2)
3 She's superior to many a layabout! (4)
4 Administered a transaction before finishing breakfast (5)
5 Boastful game? (4)
6 Seemed legitimate in collecting the dole (6)
9 A number of picturesque pieces (6)
11 Progressive help in swotting up? (3)
12 When a wild bear has a dizzy head, keep out! (5)
13 At last a friend gets a portion of fish! (7)
15 One points out that's it's pale (3)
16 He, shaken, maybe has to lose! (3)
18 At times, only part of a rubber? (6)
20 In a wild chase, it will get you nowhere! (5)
21 Spiteful woman's wrongful act (3)
22 Drink nothing when there's a teetotaller around! (3)
23 During a sale, put in an order for a stripper (6)
25 A bighead takes a French one, to eat (3)
28 Name just one heavyweight (5)
30 A half pint's plenty for the captain! (5)
31 Tends to adjust for damage (5)
32 Timber port? (4)
33 Indeed, Susan's about right! (4)

EASY

ACROSS
4 Handle awkwardly (6)
7 Fresh (8)
8 Adjusts (6)
10 Serene joy (5)
13 Slimming plan (4)
14 Appear (4)
15 German man (4)
16 Weir (3)
17 Of the ear (4)
19 Object of worship (4)
21 Beautiful but aloof woman (3,6)
23 Expanse of water (4)
24 Merriment (4)
26 Pallid (3)
27 Utensil (4)
29 Send by post (4)
32 Fronded plant (4)
33 Stage whisper (5)
34 Craven (6)
35 Mechanic (8)
36 Author (6)

DOWN
1 Explosive devices (5)
2 Southern US states (5)
3 Fail to hit (4)
4 Panache (5)
5 Cooked animal flesh (4)
6 Deadly (6)
9 Ridicule (6)
11 Limb (3)
12 Artist's garment (5)
13 Ten-sided figure (7)
15 That man (3)
16 Put on (3)
18 Wobble (6)
20 Considers (5)
21 Boy's name (3)
22 Unwell (3)
23 Toil (6)
25 Offer (3)
28 Command (5)
30 Intended (5)
31 Gain knowledge (5)
32 Not slow (4)
33 Keen (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12286

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Jack-Al 7, Off break 8, Vera 10, Pai-NE-d 11, Ref-ill 14, Old 16, Came-L 17, Rely 19, Testy 21, Roles 22, D-ante 23, Chew 26, So-dom 28, T-OO 29, Plates 30, Bowler 31, Re-ad. 32, Decrease 33, Widely.
DOWN: 1, Ja-spe-r 2, Keenly 3, L-O-ad 4, Objects 5, Denim 6, Skull 8, Viol 9, Re-d 12, F-ay 13, Le-Ave. 15, Melts 18, Ex-to-L 19, Ton (rev.) 20, See 21, Rameses 22, Dot 23, Coward 24, Hol-d 25, W-arily 26, Spade 27, Dance 28, To-E 30, Brew.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Strand 7, Adelaide 8, Yeti 10, Uranus 11, Locate 14, Ran 16, Manor 17, Fads 19, Peter 21, Cigar 22, Lunar 23, Dice 26, Viper 28, Air 29, Eclair 30, Mirage 31, Eden 32, Sanguine 33, Kettle.
DOWN: 1, Scruff 2, Arenas 3, Dais 4, Bloomer 5, Titan 6, Sewer 8, Yard 9, Tun 12, Car 13, Toxic 15, Legal 18, Attic 19, Pin 20, Tar 21, Curious 22, Lea 23, Direct 24, Iran 25, Emerge 26, Verse 27, Plonk 28, Aid 30, Meek.

◆SU-DO-KU-6750◆

4		3		7		5	2	
		2	6					
	6			2	9			7
		9						4
	4						8	
8						6		
3			9	6			4	
					5	2		
	1	7		4		3		9

medium

3	8	4	7	9	2	5	6	1
9	7	5	6	4	1	8	2	3
6	1	2	3	5	8	9	4	7
1	4	9	5	2	3	6	7	8
8	5	7	4	6	9	3	1	2
2	6	3	1	8	7	4	5	9
5	2	8	9	1	4	7	3	6
7	9	6	2	3	5	1	8	4
4	3	1	8	7	6	2	9	5

SOLUTION TO 6749

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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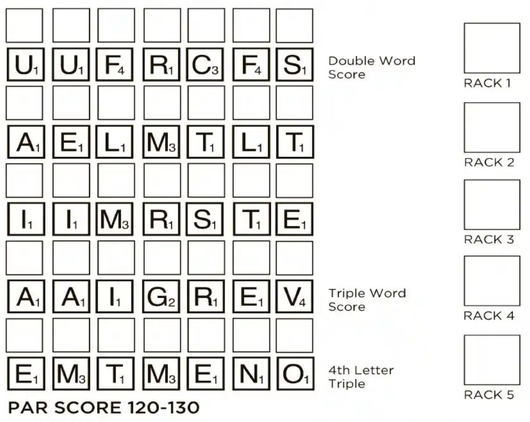

U1 U1 F4 R1 C3 F4 S1
Double Word Score
A1 E1 L1 M3 T1 L1 T1
I1 I1 M3 R1 S1 T1 E1
A1 A1 I1 G2 R1 E1 V4
Triple Word Score
E1 M3 T1 M3 E1 N1 O1
4th Letter Triple
RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4
RACK 5

PAR SCORE 120-130
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

O1	C3	T1	O1	P3	O1	D2	RACK 1	= 86
S1	H4	I1	P3	M3	A1	N1	RACK 2	= 64
T1	Y4	R1	A1	N1	N1	Y4	RACK 3	= 76
A1	B3	R1	E1	A1	S1	T1	RACK 4	= 62

PAR SCORE 190-200 JUDD'S TOTAL 288

HITORI-3204

1	4	2	6	2	8	7	4
3	7	8	7	3	2	6	2
6	8	1	2	7	4	2	5
2	3	5	2	1	7	3	6
7	6	2	8	4	5	2	1
5	8	2	1	2	3	8	4
3	5	7	4	6	7	2	2
3	2	7	1	5	1	1	8

SOLUTION TO 3203

■	4	6	5	3	1	2	■
3	■	2	4	■	5	6	1
7	2	8	6	5	■	3	■
■	3	■	1	■	6	■	8
5	■	4	3	7	2	1	6
2	8	1	7	■	4	■	5
■	1	■	2	6	7	8	■
6	7	3	■	8	■	5	4

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3204

SOLUTION TO 3203

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3734

■			7					■
	6				4		■	8
		■				■	6	
			■	4	■			
4		5		■		8	3	
		9	1		8		2	
		■	3			2		
	■			9			■	
			5	2	7	9	8	4

SOLUTION TO 3733

5	7	1	8	6	3	9	2	4
8	9	6	4	7	2	5	3	1
3	2	4	1	5	9	6	8	7
6	8	2	3	4	7	1	9	5
4	1	9	5	2	6	8	7	3
7	3	5	9	8	1	2	4	6
9	4	8	6	3	5	7	1	2
2	5	3	7	1	8	4	6	9
1	6	7	2	9	4	3	5	8

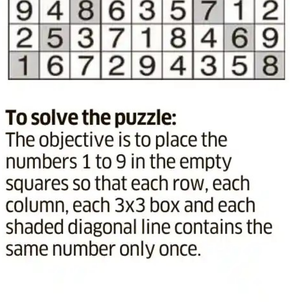
To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DDOEG
TKTIY
PYODOR
RIANPS


I'm starving! We really worked up an appetite.
Tell me about it! Give me a big scoop!
AFTER A LONG DAY OF PLANTING SHRUBS, IT WAS DINNERTIME, AND THEY WERE ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play-Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GOING BOXER BONNET FINALE
Answer: It took a long time to get the fish into the boat because it was a — "REEL" BIG ONE

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COUNTER

"Elections in India are now a serial hurdle race. The people of Bihar who succeeded in crossing the SIR hurdle and managed to protect and use their votes should now overcome the third hurdle and ensure accurate counting of votes

Dipankar Bhattacharya
CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary

V/S

Women in Bihar have voted decisively. 'The 'M Factor' – 'Mahila Factor' – believing in development and sushasan (good governance) has emerged as the real swing factor. Political pundits must stop viewing Bihar's polity only through the lens of caste."

Pradeep Bhandari
BJP spokesperson

BYPOLL TURNOUT*

Seat	Male % / Female %	Total %
Budgam (J&K)	M 54.91% F 45%	50.02%
Nagrota (J&K)	M 75.18% F 74.98%	75.08%
Ghatsila Jharkhand)	M 73.70% F 75.52%	74.63%
Dampa (Mizoram)	M 81.54% F 83.18%	82.34%
Nuapada (Odisha)	M 81.17% F 76.96%	79.02%
Tarn Taran (Punjab)	M 60.80% F 61.12%	60.95%
Anta (Rajasthan)	M 82.42% F 78.13%	80.32%
Jubilee Hills (Telangana)	M 47.59% F 48.95%	48.24%

* Provisional data; does not include service, transgender voters & postal ballots

Poll diary

Anticipating victory, Bihar BJP orders 501 kg of laddoos

Anticipating its victory in the Bihar assembly elections, the BJP has ordered 501 kg of laddoos ahead of the counting of votes on Friday. To celebrate his anticipated victory, JD(U) candidate Anant Singh, who was arrested in connection with a murder case, has invited his supporters and voters to a feast on the day of counting. Buoyed by most of the exit poll predictions that have indicated a clear mandate for the NDA government, the saffron party already appears to be in a celebratory mood. BJP worker Krishna Kumar Kallu said, "On the counting day, NDA will celebrate Holi, Dussehra, Diwali and Eid because people have voted in favour of NDA's development works." He added that the party has ordered 501 kg of laddoos to be "distributed as prasad" among people.

Rahul alleges same person voting in multiple polls

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday alleged that the BJP and EC are colluding to carry out "vote chori" and "murder of democracy" is playing out live. In a post on X, Gandhi shared a post of the Congress claiming that a person voted in the Haryana, Delhi and Bihar polls. "Millions of BJP members openly roam around different states casting votes. "And to cover up this theft, all evidence is being erased," Gandhi alleged. "The BJP and EC are together openly stealing votes - the murder of democracy is happening live."

'EVMs kept under tight security ahead of counting'

The electronic voting machines (EVMs), in which the electoral fate of the Bihar assembly election candidates have been sealed, were kept under tight security in strong rooms, the ECI said on Wednesday. Votes will be counted on Friday in 46 centres across the 38 districts of Bihar. The EVMs and VVPATs used in the polling have been sealed inside strong rooms, which are under a two-tier security cover, the ECI. "While the inner security of the premises has been assigned to Central Armed Paramilitary Forces (CAPF), district police have been deployed to maintain outer security. Furthermore, 24×7 CCTV surveillance and other security provisions have been put in place," it said. A control room has also been set up within every strong room campus.

Three more exit polls predict NDA edge

JD(U) seen re-emerging as key alliance player, RJD single-largest party

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Three more exit polls, released on Wednesday, predicted an NDA victory in the Bihar Assembly elections, with one suggesting a closer contest than the others.

Axis My India projected that the NDA may secure 121-141 seats, despite the BJP losing around 18-23 sitting seats compared to 2020. The JD(U) is seen re-emerging as the coalition's main party with 56-62 seats, up from 43 five years ago. The BJP, meanwhile, could get only 50-56 seats, down from 74 in 2020.

The projection also indicated that the rival RJD may emerge as the single largest party with 67-76 seats, similar to its 2020 tally of 75. While the RJD's performance may see only a marginal decline, the I.N.D.I.A bloc is projected to win 98-118 seats—still short of the 122 required for a majority.

The Congress is projected to win 17-21 seats, indicating that its inability to expand its footprint could once again weaken the Opposition alliance's chances of breaching the majority threshold.

Mukesh Sahani's VIP is expected to secure 3-5 seats, while the Left parties — CPI(ML)L, CPM and CPI — which together held 16 seats, may have to settle for 10-14.

Within the NDA fold, Chirag Paswan's LJP(RV) is projected to win 11-16 seats, nearly half of the 29 it contested. Jiten Ram Manjhi's HAM(S) and Upendra Kushwaha's RLM are likely to win 2-3 and 2-4 seats, respectively.

However, Today's Chanakya projected a bigger mandate for the NDA, estimating 148-172 seats, while giving the I.N.D.I.A bloc 65-89 and others 3-9 seats. It said upper castes, OBCs, EBCs and Dalits overwhelmingly voted for the NDA, while a majority of Yadavs and Muslims backed the I.N.D.I.A bloc.

Kamakhya Strategies forecast 167-187 seats for the NDA, with the I.N.D.I.A bloc predicted to win 54-74 seats. None of the three exit polls showed the Jan Suraaj Party performing well in the elections.

On Tuesday, 12 exit polls predicted a clear victory for the NDA, projecting between 130 and 209 seats. The I.N.D.I.A bloc was projected to win 32-108 seats.

Projections

	NDA	I.N.D.I.A	JSP	AIMIM	Others
Axis My India	121-141	98-118	0-2	0-2	1-5
Today's Chanakya	160 (+/-12)	77 (+/-12)	-	-	6 (+/-3)
Kamakhya Strategies	167-187	54-74	0-2	-	2-7

Tejashwi dismisses predictions

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Leader of the Opposition in the outgoing Assembly and Mahagathbandhan Chief Ministerial face Tejashwi Yadav on Tuesday dismissed the exit poll reports, and said these numbers were released even when people were standing in queues to vote.

"These exit polls, which have given a clear edge to the NDA and ruled out the formation of the Mahagatbandhan government, came out even when the last vote had not been cast. These surveys are carried out just to bring pressure on officials involved in the election process," said Tejashwi, adding that "We are sure we will sweep the poll on November 14 and form the Government on November 18."

BIHAR VOTES

To buttress his point of how the previous exit polls have gone horribly wrong, Tejashwi said, "The exit polls had earlier shown defeat of the ruling party in Jharkhand and Bengal, but the results were diametrically opposite. Similar mistake with Haryana exit polls. In fact, the agencies carrying exit polls predicted the NDA crossing 400 seats during the 2024 Lok Sabha election."

The former deputy chief minister also lashed out at the media for giving undue weightage to the exit poll report.

"Actually, the 'Godi media' loves such surveys. This is the same 'Godi media', which captured Islamabad and Karachi (during Operation Sindoor). This is the same 'Godi media' which carried the news that Bollywood actor Dharmendra Ji has passed away, and the UP CM Yogi (Adityanath) issued a condolences message too," he said.

Questioning the methodology adopted by these exit poll agencies, Tejashwi said, "The surveys are showing exit poll results, but no one is talking about the sample size of the survey."

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav addresses a press conference in Patna on Wednesday. PTI

Highest-Ever Turnout in Bihar

Final Turnout: 67.13%

Male 62.98%
Female 71.78%

No Repoll Ordered this time

Lok Sabha repolls		Assembly repolls	
2024	2	2020	3
2019	3	2015	2
2014	96		

SIR: Kerala trails, WB & TN lead despite protests

Enumeration forms distributed to 37 cr of 51 cr voters across 12 states/UTs

COVERAGE GAPS

- Kerala trails with 49.55% distribution
- 88.8% and 78.09% covered in Bengal & TN
- Lakshadweep tops at nearly 100%; Goa at 99.99%
- Low performers: MP (53.83%), Chhattisgarh (63.75%), UP (69.95%)

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Kerala is lagging behind other states in the distribution of pre-filled enumeration forms during the second phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, covering less than half of its voters. In contrast, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu have recorded impressive progress despite their vocal protests.

So far, enumeration forms have been distributed to 37.05 crore, or 72.66% of 50.99 crore voters in 12 states and Union Territories, in the first nine days of the exercise.

The distribution of printed forms began on November 4, with Lakshadweep topping the list by covering all but one voter — 57,812 of 57,813 — or nearly 100% as of 3 pm on Wednesday in this phase. Goa has reached 99.99%, with only 119 of its 11.85 lakh voters yet to receive the forms.

Kerala has so far recorded 49.55% distribution — 1.38 crore of 2.78 crore voters — with sources attributing the slower pace to ongoing preparations for local body elections. The state, which has opposed the exercise, had earlier sought its postponement, citing the clash with local polls.

Sources said several Booth Level Officers (BLOs) in Kerala were engaged in panchayat and municipal election duties, causing delays in the distribution of forms. Replacements for such BLOs are being arranged, they added.

West Bengal and Tamil Nadu have recorded good progress in the exercise, covering 88.8% and 78.09% of voters respectively as per the rolls on October 27. In West Bengal, forms have been distributed to 6.80 crore of 7.66 crore voters, while in Tamil Nadu, the figure stands at five crore out of 6.41 crore.

Madhya Pradesh (53.83% — 3.09 crore of 5.74 crore), Chhattisgarh (63.75% — 1.35 crore of 2.12 crore) and Uttar Pradesh (69.95% — 10.8 crore of 15.44 crore) were also at the lower end of the list.

Gujarat, another BJP-ruled state, clocked 88.08% distribution (4.47 crore of 5.08 crore), while Rajasthan covered 70.94% (3.89 crore of 5.48 crore). Puducherry covered 93.04% or 9.5 lakh of 10.21 lakh voters, while 89.22% or 2.76 lakh of 3.10 lakh voters in Andaman and Nicobar have been covered.

Booth-level officials distribute enumeration forms as part of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in West Bengal's Mousuni Island. AFP

Over 13L 'bogus voters' inserted by TMC, says BJP

KOLKATA, DHNS: The BJP on Wednesday submitted to the Election Commission what it claimed to be 'irrefutable evidence' about over 13.25 lakh cases of 'duplicate, fraudulent and multiple entries' in the electoral rolls of five of the 42 parliamentary constituencies of West Bengal.

The BJP accused the Trinamool Congress of orchestrating an electoral fraud by making dubious entries.

"This isn't just a glitch. This is a deliberate electoral fraud orchestrated by the TMC to steal (West) Bengal's mandate, by misusing the administration," said BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari in a post on X. "The TMC thinks they can manipulate Democracy with diluted voter lists. Well, we will not let that happen."

Suvendu turned up at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer with several bundles of papers, with what he claimed to be evidence of 13.25 lakh cases of 'duplicate, fraudulent and multiple entries' in the electoral rolls of five Lok Sabha constituencies in the state – Coochbehar, Birbhum, Kanthi, Tamluk and Purulia.

"Alongside physical copies of the voters' lists wherein the dubious entries were marked, we also handed over (to the CEO) a pen drive containing related data for their convenience," said Suvendu.

The TMC accused the EC of acting at the behest of the BJP and making changes in the rules of appointing the booth-level agents (BLA) for the SIR. The EC drew flak from TMC after it allowed the political parties to appoint any voter of any booth in the assembly constituency as the BLA of any booth in the same constituency.

Earlier, the parties were allowed to appoint a voter of a particular booth as the BLA for that booth only.

TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee alleged that the BJP had found it difficult to appoint the BLA in a large number of booths, which was why it had made the EC ease the rules.

"The EC has bent the rules of the SIR—blatantly to favour the BJP!" Kalyan alleged while speaking to journalists in Kolkata. "This isn't a reform—it's a calculated manipulation! How shamelessly can the Election Commission compromise its neutrality? The entire SIR process has been turned into a tool to serve the BJP's political convenience instead of protecting electoral fairness."

Kerala BJP nominee draws flak for past remark on ritual

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: As Kerala's first woman IPS officer, R Sreelekha, enters electoral politics with the BJP in the Thiruvananthapuram local body polls, a past remark she made against a renowned temple ritual is being raked up by Opposition parties.

In 2018, while serving as Director General of Prisons, Sreelekha had criticised the 'Kuthiyottam' ritual of the famed Attukal Bhagavathy Temple. The ritual involved piercing small iron hooks into the skin of minor boys.

Writing in her personal blog, she had said that the act of piercing hooks into the bodies of young boys and causing them physical and mental pain was an offence.

Following her remarks, the Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights had suo motu initiated a case.

However, the ritual continues to be performed as part of the Attukal Pongala festival, which holds the world record for being the largest gathering of women.

With Sreelekha contesting as a BJP candidate, Congress leader Sandeep Varrier, in a social media post, questioned whether BJP and Hindu organisations were supporting someone who criticised a temple ritual.

In response, Sreelekha said she was not against any ritual but only opposed wrongdoings and superstitions.

SC to hear Shiv Sena symbol row case from January 21

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Wednesday decided to conduct the final hearing on January 21, 2026, on the appeal filed by the Uddhav Thackeray-led faction of the Shiv Sena against the Election Commission's decision to allot the 'bow and arrow' party symbol to the Eknath Shinde-led faction.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi said that the court will start hearing the arguments from January 21.

The bench also clarified that it will hear the arguments on a similar dispute concerning the NCP on January 22, as there are several overlapping issues involved in it. It fixed three hours for hearing arguments from each faction of the political parties.

JPC on bills to sack ministers formed, NCP (SP) joins

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Joint Committee of Parliament to examine the contentious Bills for removal of top political executives detained in jail for at least 30 days in a row was constituted, with NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) breaking ranks with I.N.D.I.A bloc, which had announced a boycott, to join the panel.

The setting up of the panel, which was pending since August as the I.N.D.I.A bloc, barring NCP (SP), refused to name any MP, came 84 days after the Parliament cleared a motion to send it for scrutiny of a panel of MPs.

BJP's Aparajita Sarangi will head the 31-member panel with 26 NDA MPs, including 15 from BJP, four from the Opposition—NCP (SP), AIMIM, Akali Dal and YSR Congress—and an unattached nominated member, Sudha Murthy. From Karnataka, JD(S) MP M Mallesh Babu is also a member of the committee.

Except for four MPs from the Opposition, all others in the panel are aligned with the government. Supriya Sule from NCP(SP), Harsimrat Kaur from Akali Dal, S Niranjan Reddy from YSR Congress and Asaduddin Owaisi of AIMIM are the Opposition MPs on the panel.

Aparajita Sarangi

Incidentally, BJD and BRS are also not represented in the panel. While the BRS was not invited to join the panel, sources said the BJD did not respond to a communication seeking an MP to be nominated to the panel.

The number of Lok Sabha MPs in the panel is 21, and the Rajya Sabha is 10, which is mandated to submit its report on the last day of the first week of the upcoming Winter Session. However, the deadline is likely to be extended.

From the NDA, there is one member each from allies TDP, JD(U), Shiv Sena, Jana Sena Party, Sikkim Kranti Morcha, NCP, JD(S), UPPL, LJP (RV), AGP and AIADMK.

The BJP MPs include Ravi Shankar Prasad, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Anurag Thakur, Purushotham Rupala, K Laxman, Brijlal, Neeraj Shekhar and Ujjwal Nikam, a nominated member who joined the saffron party.

The constitution of the panel had run into rough weather as the I.N.D.I.A bloc had announced a boycott of the panel. Trinamool Congress, AAP, Samajwadi Party, and Shiv Sena (UBT) had announced the boycott within days of the passage of the motion in Lok Sabha, following which other partners also followed suit.

7 Oppn parties unite to challenge BJP in Assam Assembly elections

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Seven Opposition parties of Assam, including Congress, on Wednesday announced a common front to take on the BJP in next year's Assembly elections.

This was decided in a meeting convened by Congress, and was attended by the top leaders of seven regional parties.

Raijor Dal, led by Sivasagar MLA Akhil Gogoi and Lurinjyoti Gogoi-led Asom Jatiya Parishad (AJP) are among the prominent regional parties that attended the meeting. CPI, CPM, Anchalik Gana Morcha led by Rajya Sabha Member Ajit Kumar Bhuyan and All Party Hill Leader's Conference, and another small political outfit with a base in Karbi Anglong district are the other partners.

"We want to contest the next Assembly elections together in order to free the people of Assam from the harassment, corruption and divisive politics of BJP and the Himanta Biswa Sarma government. Today, we have taken that decision to unseat BJP," Congress MP and Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) President, Gaurav Gogoi told reporters. AICC general secretary Jitendra Singh, who is also the party's in-charge of Assam, also attended the meeting.

ASSAM ASSEMBLY
Total seats: 126

Present party-wise MLAs	
BJP	63
Congress	26
AIUDF	15
AGP	09
UPPL	06
BPF	05
CPM	01
Ind	01

"We all had to say what Gaurav Gogoi has just told you," Lurinjyoti Gogoi, President of AJP, said. AJP, which came into being during the anti-CAA agitation in 2020, is likely to make an impact in the central and eastern Assam constituencies, where the indigenous communities hold the key.

Raijor Dal, on the other hand, is focusing on both eastern Assam and in minority-dominated constituencies in central and western Assam. Both Morcha and AJP were formed in 2020 and are yet to witness electoral success. Raijor Dal has one MLA, president, Akhil Gogoi himself.

AIUDF opts out

Badruddin Ajmal-led AIUDF, contested the 2021 Assembly elections in seat-sharing arrangements with Congress. However, it is not part of the proposed front. AIUDF has 15 MLAs (out of 226 seats) but recently announced that it would go solo in the Assembly polls. The AIUDF's exclusion, according to observers, is likely to divide the Muslim votes and help BJP.

BJP, on the other hand, is likely to contest the polls in alliance with Asom Gana Parishad and Bodoland People's Front (BPF).

There is no clarity about BJP's alliance with UPPL, a partner in the present government. UPPL, which lost the Bodoland Territorial Council polls last month, is upset over BPF's inclusion in the NDA and in the Himanta Biswa Sarma government after the BTC polls results. BPF was part of the Opposition forum in 2021.

SEX SCANDAL

Democrats release emails 'linking' Trump to Epstein case

Disgraced financier's emails claim Trump knew about underage girls

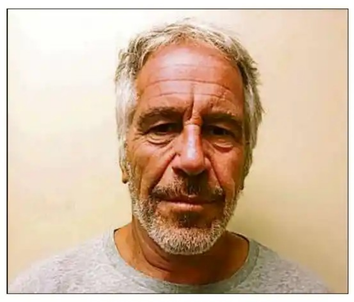
WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

Disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein wrote in a 2011 email that Donald Trump had "spent hours" at Epstein's house with a victim of sex trafficking and said in a separate message years later that Trump "knew about the girls," according to communications released on Wednesday.

The emails, made public by Democrats on the House Oversight Committee, add to questions about Trump's friendship with Epstein and any knowledge he may have had of what prosecutors described as a yearslong effort by Epstein to exploit underage girls.

The Republican president has consistently denied any knowledge of Epstein's alleged crimes and has said he ended their relationship years ago. The messages are part of a batch of 23,000 documents provided by Epstein's estate to the Oversight Committee.

The release revives a storyline that shadowed Trump's presidency during the summer, when the FBI and the Justice Department abruptly announced that they would not be releasing additional documents that investigators had spent weeks examining—disappointing conspiracy theorists and online sleuths who had expected new revelations.



Jeffrey Epstein. AP/PTI FILE

In an April 2, 2011, email to Ghislaine Maxwell, an Epstein girlfriend now imprisoned for conspiring to engage in sex trafficking, Epstein wrote: "I want you to realise that the dog that hasn't barked is Trump. (Redacted name) spent hours at my house with him. He has never once been mentioned."

Maxwell replied the same day: "I have been thinking about that."

The name of the person said to have spent time with Trump was redacted, but House Democrats identified the individual as a "victim."

In a separate 2019 email to journalist Michael Wolff, who has written extensively about Trump, Epstein wrote of Trump: "Of course he knew about the girls as he asked Ghislaine to stop." White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt accused the Democrats of "selectively leaking emails" to "create a fake narrative to smear President Trump."

She said in a statement that the unnamed person referenced in the emails was Virginia Giuffre, who had accused Britain's then-Prince Andrew and other influential men of sexually exploiting her as a teenager and who died by suicide in April. Andrew, who was recently stripped of his titles and evicted from his royal residence by King Charles III after weeks of pressure to act over his relationship with Epstein, has rejected Giuffre's allegations and said he did not recall meeting her.

Japan PM hints at shift in nuclear policy

Takaichi's remarks spark debate on nuclear principles

TOKYO, REUTERS

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi this week hinted at a possible shift in the country's decades-old non-nuclear principles, raising speculation that she might seek to revise a ban on the entry of such weapons into its territory.

Takaichi told parliament on Monday that she could not say whether the three principles — not to possess, produce or introduce nuclear weapons into Japan — would be maintained in an upcoming revision of the country's security strategy.

"I cannot make a definitive statement or say that it will be written in such a manner," she said, responding to an opposition lawmaker's question. She added that, for now, the government still adheres to the principles as a policy guideline. Her past comments and refusal to commit to the pledge upheld by Japanese administrations since 1967 have raised the possibility that she may seek to revise the third principle, which prohibits nuclear weapons from entering Japan.

In a 2024 book written before she took office, Takaichi described the third principle as unrealistic, arguing that the United States may need to bring nuclear weapons into Japan to deter rivals. Japan, like neighbouring South Korea, is protected under Washington's so-called nuclear umbrella. A Reuters investigation published in August found growing political and public willingness in Japan to loosen the pledge, even though it remains a taboo subject in the only nation to have suffered an atomic bomb attack.

SANAE TAKAICHI
Japanese prime minister

"I cannot make a definitive statement or say that it will be written in such a manner (reaffirming Japan's three anti-nuclear principles).

THREE PRINCIPLES

- Not to possess nuclear weapons. Not to produce nuclear weapons. Not to introduce nuclear weapons into Japan's territory

Some lawmakers within Takaichi's ruling Liberal Democratic Party have said the US should be allowed to bring nuclear weapons into Japan to strengthen deterrence as China expands its nuclear arsenal. Her new coalition partner, the Japan Innovation Party, has also advocated that Japan reconsider the three principles.

Anti-nuclear groups in Japan fiercely oppose such moves, saying Tokyo is morally bound to reject nuclear weapons, including their presence on Japanese soil, due to the horrors of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II. However, as those memories fade and regional threats mount, public opinion polls show a growing openness to discussing alternative nuclear options.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara declined to clarify Takaichi's position when asked at a regular news conference on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck in Thimphu on Wednesday. PTI

India reaffirms support to Bhutan's 13th five-year plan

Both nations deepen ties with focus on energy, connectivity and Gelephu project

THIMPHU, PTI

India on Wednesday reaffirmed its unwavering support to Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with former King Jigme Singye Wangchuck and joined Bhutan's leadership at the Kalachakra initiation ceremony, hosted as part of the Global Peace Prayer Festival.

Following the meeting, Modi lauded Wangchuck's contribution in further strengthening India-Bhutan relations and said the discussions focused on bilateral cooperation in energy, trade, technology and connectivity.

"Discussed cooperation in energy, trade, technology and connectivity. Lauded the progress in the Gelephu Mindfulness City Project, which aligns with our Act East Policy," Modi said on social media.

In the morning, Modi inaugurated the Kalachakra Wheel of Time Empowerment at the Global Peace Prayer Festival, attended by top Bhutanese leaders, including King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and former King Jigme Singye Wangchuck. "This is an important ritual with great cultural significance for Buddhists around the world. The Kalachakra Empowerment is a part of the ongoing Global Peace Prayer Festival, which has brought together devotees and scholars of Buddhism to Bhutan," Modi said on 'X'.

Before departing for New Delhi, Modi said the outcomes from his visit in areas such as energy, healthcare and connectivity would "add momentum to our bilateral partnership".

In a special gesture, King Jigme Khesar came to the airport to see off Modi.

As Modi concluded his two-day visit to Bhutan, the Ministry of External Affairs stated that the prime minister reaffirmed India's unwavering support to Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan (2024–2029), including the economic stimulus programme, emphasising New Delhi's commitment to actively assist the neighbouring country in achieving its key development priorities and advancing sustainable growth across sectors. "The Bhutanese side appreciated India's assistance for Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan period for various projects under implementation across Bhutan and their contribution to the country's development," the statement said.

Trump urges Israel prez to pardon Netanyahu

JERUSALEM, AP/PTI: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday sent a letter to Israel's president asking him to pardon Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a long-running corruption trial that has bitterly divided the country.

It was the latest attempt by Trump to intervene in the case on behalf of Netanyahu, raising questions about undue American influence over internal Israeli affairs. Trump had also called for a pardon for Netanyahu during a speech to Israel's parliament last month, when he made a brief visit to promote his Gaza peace plan.

In Wednesday's letter to President Isaac Herzog, Trump described the corruption case as a "political, unjustified prosecution." "As the Great State of Israel and the amazing Jewish People move past the terribly difficult times of the last three years, I hereby call on you to fully pardon Benjamin Netanyahu, who has been a formidable and decisive wartime Prime Minister, and is now leading Israel into a time of peace," Trump wrote.

Netanyahu is the only sitting prime minister in Israeli history to stand trial, after being charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in three separate cases accusing him of exchanging favours with wealthy political supporters.

Jaishankar, Rubio meet amid Putin's planned India visit

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Even as New Delhi prepares to host President Vladimir Putin early next month, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio discussed Russia's "special military operations" in Ukraine during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of a G7 outreach session in Canada on Wednesday.

Jaishankar and Rubio discussed the Russia-Ukraine conflict even as President Donald Trump reiterated his claim that India had slashed oil imports from the former Soviet Union. Trump also said recently that the US would lower tariffs imposed on India, as the South Asian nation had reduced its energy imports from Russia.

Rubio conveyed to Jaishankar his condolences over the loss of lives in the blast in New Delhi.

Jaishankar later posted on X that he and Rubio had discussed India-US bilateral relations, with a focus on trade and supply chains.

Trump recently said that the US had reached "pretty close" to clinching a "fair trade deal" with India.

Starmer insists govt 'united' as plot rumours swirl

LONDON, AFP: UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer insisted Wednesday he runs a "united team" after a senior minister was forced to repeatedly deny that he planned to oust the embattled premier.

Starmer's comments came after Downing Street sources said Britain's leader would fight off any leadership challenge, as the anonymous briefing exposed tensions at the heart of the beleaguered government.

Rumours are swirling in the UK parliament that some ministers are plotting to challenge Starmer following a budget due later this month, in which Labour is expected to break manifesto promises.

"This is a united team," he told parliament, adding that he was focused on "rebuilding the country".

Trump claims 'obligation' to sue BBC over 'doctored' speech

WASHINGTON, AFP

US President Donald Trump said he had an "obligation" to sue the BBC over a misleading speech edit, stopping short of announcing legal action in a Fox News interview aired on Tuesday.

Trump's lawyers threatened the British broadcaster with a billion-dollar lawsuit on Monday, according to a letter seen by AFP, as the BBC apologised for giving the impression that the president had urged "violent action" ahead of the 2021 assault on the US Capitol.

In the Fox News interview, recorded on Monday, Trump was asked if he planned to sue the BBC. "I guess I have to, why not?" said the president in his first public comments on the potential for legal action.

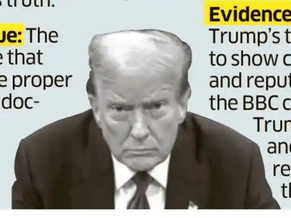
"I think I have an obligation to do it because you can't allow people to do that," Trump said, without confirming whether he had begun proceedings to file a defamation lawsuit.

$1 BILLION LAWSUIT HURDLES

High burden of proof: Trump must prove the BBC acted with "actual malice"– that the falsehood was published deliberately or with serious doubts about its truth.

Limited damages in the UK: Even if the case were filed in Britain, Trump missed the 12-month libel deadline, and damages are capped at about £300,000 ($395,000).

Jurisdiction issue: The BBC could argue that Florida is not the proper venue since the documentary was likely not aired in the US but in the UK.



Evidence requirement: Trump's team would have to show clear financial and reputational harm; the BBC could demand Trump's personal and business records to test this claim.

PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION

Protesters clash with security at UN climate talks

BELEM (BRAZIL), AP/PTI

A group of activists clashed with security personnel on Tuesday at the United Nations climate talks in the Brazilian Amazon city of Belem, briefly attempting to force their way into the main venue before being pushed back. Two security workers suffered minor injuries, the UN said.

The confrontation occurred late in the day as people were leaving the venue for COP30, as the talks are known. "Earlier this evening, a group of protesters breached security barriers at the main entrance to the COP, causing minor injuries to two security staff and minor damage to the venue," UN Climate Change said.

"Brazilian and UN security personnel took protective actions to secure the venue, following all established security protocols. Brazilian and UN authorities are investigating the incident. The venue is fully secured, and COP negotiations continue."

Agustin Ocaña, mobilisation coordinator for youth with the Global Youth Coalition, told The Associated Press he was outside when he saw two groups of people — some in yellow shirts and others dressed in the attire of Indigenous communities — walking toward the venue.

He said that, at first, they were mostly dancing and chanting, and he decided to follow them as he had friends among the Indigenous group. He did not see which group first broke through security but said the situation escalated when guards reacted by closing the doors forcefully and calling for reinforcements.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

A Palestinian boy collects plastics near an unexploded missile at a dump site in Gaza City on Wednesday. AFP

US sanctions Indian firm over Iran missile links

▸ The US on Wednesday announced sanctions against 32 entities and individuals from several countries, including India and China for links to Iran's ballistic missile programme, PTI reports from Washington.

The state department said the action is in line with efforts to counter Iran's aggressive development of missiles and other asymmetric and conventional weapons. The US is sanctioning 32 entities and individuals based in Iran, China, Hong Kong, the UAE, Turkiye, India, and other jurisdictions that operate multiple procurement networks supporting Iran's ballistic missile and unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) production, it said. It said the action supports the reimposition of UN sanctions and restrictive measures on Iran in response to the country's "significant non-performance" of its nuclear commitments. The Treasury Department linked India-based Farmlane Pvt Ltd (Farmlane) to a UAE-based firm named Marco Klinge (Klinge), which allegedly facilitated the procurement of materials like sodium chlorate and sodium perchlorate.

20 Turkish soldiers die in crash

▸ Turkey's defence ministry said on Wednesday that 20 soldiers were killed in the crash of a military aircraft in Georgia a day earlier, as inspectors continued to seek clues as to what caused the NATO member's cargo plane to go down, Reuters reports from Ankara.

The C-130 plane took off from Azerbaijan for Turkey and crashed in Georgia on Tuesday. Ankara has not yet provided a reason for its deadliest military incident since 2020. It said Turkish and Georgian authorities began inspections at the site, in the Sighnaghu municipality of Georgia's Kakheti district, at 0330 GMT on Wednesday. Initial footage from the scene showed chunks of twisted metal strewn across a grassy knoll, while unverified footage showed the plane breaking apart in mid-air.

She Zhijiang, 43, a Chinese gambling kingpin, is escorted by police ahead of being extradited to China, at Bangkok Airport in Thailand on Wednesday. REUTERS

Typhoon batters Taiwan

▸ Taiwan evacuated more than 8,300 people ahead of Wednesday's arrival of a much-weakened Typhoon Fung-wong, which brought record downpours to the mountainous east coast and unleashed floods that rose to neck height in some places, Reuters reports from Taipei.

Businesses and schools were shut across most southern areas of the island, with 51 people injured. Television footage showed severe flooding in parts of the largely rural eastern county of Yilan, with waters neck-deep as soldiers mounted rescue efforts for those stranded. More than 1,000 homes were flooded in the harbour town of Suao, which received 648 mm of rain on Tuesday—a record for the month, weather officials said.

42 dead in Libya boat accident

▸ At least 42 people are presumed dead after a boat carrying migrants capsized off the coast of Libya last week, AP/PTI reports from Cairo.

Seven survivors were located after the vessel's engine failed in high waves at around dawn on November 3, several hours after it departed Zuwara, a coastal city in northwestern Libya, the International Organisation for Migration said on Wednesday. The survivors were stranded for six days before being found when Libyan authorities carried out a rescue mission near the al-Buri Oil Field on Saturday. The rubber boat was reported to have been carrying 47 men and two women. The missing include 29 Sudanese, eight Somalis, three Cameroonian nationals, and two Nigerians.

Actor Johnny Depp attends a screening of "Modi, three days on the wing of madness", in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Tuesday. REUTERS

Source: Company presentation

Competition in Q-comm space: Swiggy's Rs 10k crore to support growth

Zomato's Blinkit and Zepto are pumping in more money

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

With Swiggy's board approving the proposal to raise funds up to Rs 10,000 crore through the qualified institutional placement (QIP), the food and grocery delivery major plans to use the funds more towards growth as well as strategic reserves. This fund raise comes a year after the IPO, and people in the know said that this will fuel growth across its quick commerce arm, Instamart, as well as its food delivery business.

Also, this capital is being raised at a time when there is intense competition in the quick commerce space. Zomato's Blinkit and Zepto are pumping in more money to increase the number of dark stores (a distribution centre exclusively to fulfil online orders for quick delivery).

"Over the last three quarters and post our IPO, the quick commerce business is where most of our investments have gone. The food delivery business, of course, has continued its path of profitable growth and is currently at a run rate of Rs 1,000 crore on an annual basis. And in quick commerce, this is the third continuous quarter of us delivering 100% plus GOV (gross order value) growth," Swiggy's CFO Rahul Bothra said during the company's Q2 earnings call.

He added that this additional capital would be more towards growth, as well as strategic reserves that the platform wants to use going forward.

Swiggy has also made sufficient network investments in the quick commerce business.

Somdutta Singh, Serial Entrepreneur, Founder and CEO, Assiduus Global, said Swiggy has built an interesting place for itself in the country's commerce story. "When people open an app several times a week, it naturally becomes part of their routine. That is what Swiggy has. Food delivery created the habit, and Instamart tapped into that habit for groceries and small everyday items. This puts Swiggy in a good position to influence how quick commerce grows in India. The new fundraise gives them room to improve the basics."

Blinkit and Zepto have pushed expectations on speed and availability, so Swiggy will have to stay sharp, she said.

Last month, Zepto announced the closure of $450 million in recent funding, which was a mix of primary and secondary transactions, with a majority in primary.

Aadit Palicha, CEO & Co-founder at Zepto, had said that they have now about $900 million of net cash in the bank and are more than well-capitalised for the future.

In quick commerce, Zomato's NOV (net order value) growth accelerated to 137% YoY, which is the highest in the last 10 quarters. Its network expansion continued with 272 net new stores, taking the total store count to 1,816 stores.

Bernstein Research in its latest report, mentioned that quick commerce will remain intensely competitive and that food delivery is the cash machine.

In his letter to shareholders, Sriharsha Majety, co-founder, MD & Group CEO, Swiggy, said quick commerce business delivered a 108% YoY GOV growth, clocking a GOV of Rs 7,022 crore.

"With very strong trends in consumer adoption of quick commerce for new categories and purchase missions, these helped further accelerate Instamart's GOV growth to 24.2% QoQ, the highest in 3 years. Importantly, this acceleration has been achieved with only 40 dark stores being added QoQ (to reach 1,102 stores covering 4.6 mn sq ft, across 128 cities)," the co-founder said.

He added that they will continue to sweat its already-established dark store footprint (which can support more than 2X the current order base), while adding stores to de-bottleneck capacity or selectively add coverage in specific hyperlocal zones; rather than expanding significantly into the long-tail of smaller cities in the near-term.

SpiceJet loss widens to Rs 635 cr in Q2

NEW DELHI, PTI: SpiceJet on Wednesday reported widening of net loss to Rs 635.42 crore in September quarter FY26 as multiple factors, including foreign exchange loss, additional expenses related to grounded as well as reinducted aircraft and airspace curbs, hit the budget carrier's bottom line.

The airline, which had faced multiple headwinds, had recorded a net loss of Rs 447.54 crore in the year-ago period and expects positive financial performance in the second half of the current financial year.

Excluding foreign exchange loss, the carrier had a net loss of Rs 447.70 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal, higher than Rs 424.26 crore reported in the same period a year ago, it said in a release.

"The results for the seasonally weak quarter were primarily driven by impact of recalibrating dollar-based future obligations along with carrying cost of grounded fleet and additional expenses incurred towards RTS (Return to Service)," the release said.

Tata Steel Q2 net profit grows over four-fold to Rs 4,215 cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: Tata Steel on Wednesday reported an over four-fold jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 3,183.09 crore in the September quarter, mainly supported by revenues from the India business.

It had clocked a net profit of Rs 758.84 crore in the July-September period of FY25, the company said in an exchange filing.

Tata Steel increased its total income to Rs 59,052.84 crore against Rs 54,503.30 crore in the second quarter a year ago, posting a rise of over 8% year-on-year.

The company earned a revenue of around Rs 38,592 crore from India operations, which includes Neelachal Ispat and Nigam Ltd (NINL).

In a statement, Tata Steel CEO & MD T V Narendran said, "The global operating environment remained challenging with persistent overhang of tariffs, geopolitical tensions and elevated steel exports. Despite this, Tata Steel delivered a resilient performance with the EBITDA margin improving for the second consecutive quarter."

The company remains focused on transitioning its UK and Netherlands businesses to economically and environmentally viable operations, he said.

Sebi panel for overhaul of disclosure, conflict of interest rules

Sebi chief, other members should disclose their assets

NEW DELHI, PTI

A Sebi panel has proposed comprehensive reforms to bring in transparency by way of greater disclosure and a "zero-tolerance" culture to address conflict of interest with regard to top officials of the capital market regulator.

The high-level panel in its report to Sebi Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey has also recommended setting up a secure and anonymous whistleblower system for reporting conflict of interest, ban on expensive gifts, a two-year restriction on post-retirement assignments, and creating a post of Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer (CECO).

The Committee on Conflict of Interest, Disclosures and Related Matters said Sebi Chairman, whole time members, and CGM rank officers should make public disclosure of their assets and liabilities.

It further said applicants for the post of chairman and members, and for lateral entry positions, must disclose "actual, potential, and perceived conflict-of-interest risks of financial and non-financial nature" to the appointing authority.

The panel has also given an elaborate classification of conflict of interest, which could be in the nature of financial, relational, professional, duty-related or perceived.

"Adoption of these reforms will align Sebi with international best practices, strengthen its reputation, and reinforce its independence and integrity as India's capital market regulation," the committee said in its 98-page report.

It has also suggested that all Sebi board members and employees should make initial, annual, event-based and exit disclosures of assets, liabilities, trading activities and family relationships as well as other professional and relational interests.

The disclosure is to be made to the proposed Sebi's Office of Ethics and Compliance (OEC) and the Oversight Committee on Ethics and Compliance (OCEC).

Also, it recommended "induction and refresher training that stresses ethical conduct and fostering a zero-tolerance culture for conflict of interest".

It said there should be uniform application of restrictions on investments and trading to Chairman and whole-time members (WTMs), as applicable to employees.

The investment restrictions should also apply to the spouse irrespective of his/her financial status or whether the investment is made out of the money of the Chairman/WTMs or employee or the spouse's own money, and relatives/other persons, who are financially dependent on them substantially, the report said.

It said Sebi members and employees may make new investments in any pooled vehicle, provided the scheme is professionally managed, and the market intermediary concerned is regulated by any of the financial sector regulators (such as RBI/Sebi/IRDAI/PFRDA/IFSCA).

It said the restrictions would not apply to part-time members given their limited role and sphere of influence compared to WTMs.

With regard to post-retirement cooling off period, the panel suggested that there should be a 2-year restriction on taking up assignments in Sebi matters, while the existing one-year ban on seeking fresh employment should continue and should also cover advisory, consulting or advocacy relationships.

Govt announces Rs 45,060 crore scheme to support exporters

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The central government on Wednesday announced new schemes with an outlay of Rs 45,060 crore to support exporters, especially in the sectors like textiles, leather, gems & jewellery, engineering goods, and marine products, which have been badly affected due to imposition of high tariffs in the US.

The initiatives include export promotion mission with an outlay of Rs 25,060 crore and expansion of credit guarantee scheme for exporters with a fund allocation of Rs 20,000 crore.

The proposals have been approved by the union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Briefing media after the cabinet meeting Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the export promotion mission would help boost India's export competitiveness, particularly for MSMEs, first-time exporters, and labour-intensive sectors.

The mission marks a strategic shift from multiple fragmented schemes to a single, outcome-based, and adaptive mechanism that can respond swiftly to global trade challenges and evolving exporter needs, he said.

As per the cabinet note, under the export promotion mission priority support will be extended to sectors impacted by recent global tariff escalations, such as textiles, leather, gems & jewellery, engineering goods, and marine products.

"The interventions will help sustain export orders, protect jobs, and support diversification into new geographies," it said.

The Modi government's support to the exporters comes amid imposition of high tariffs by the United States. US President Donald Trump administration has imposed a steep 50% tariffs on most Indian goods effective from August 27. Exporters have been pitching for government support to tide over the crisis.

To help the exporters hit by the tariffs, the Modi government has announced Rs 20,000 crore collateral-free credit support.

The scheme will be implemented by the Department of Financial Services through National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited to provide additional credit support by Member Lending Institutions to the eligible exporters including MSMEs. A management Committee formed under the chairmanship of Secretary, DFS will oversee the progress and implementation of the scheme.

The Union Finance Ministry noted in a statement that the collateral-free credit access would help in achieving $1 trillion export targets by strengthening liquidity and ensuring smooth business operations.

Fragile truce in Tata Trusts: Noel Tata secures son's entry on one board, blocked on another

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Tata group's internal power balance remains delicate as Noel Tata succeeded in placing his son, Neville, on the board of one of the two powerful trusts that holds majority stake in Tata Sons, but is said to have failed to get his way in the other, sources said.

Noel Tata

After the demise of patriarch Ratan Tata in October last year, Noel took over as the chairman of Tata Trusts, a group of philanthropic organisations that collectively own 65.4% in Tata Sons, the holding company of the 156-year-old Tata Group, which comprises around 400 companies, including 30 listed entities.

On Wednesday, Noel's son Neville and former group company leader Bhaskar Bhat were appointed to the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT), which owns 28% in Tata Sons, according to a statement issued by the trust.

However, he couldn't get the two appointed on the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT), which holds 23.6% in Tata Sons, sources said.

This is apparently because of an objection raised by Venu Srinivasan, trustee in the SRTT and its vice-chairman, they said.

Srinivasan, they said, objected to the manner in which the proposals for the appointments were brought up. While the appointments were on the agenda of SDTT, they were not on the list of items to be discussed in the meeting of SRTT.

Sources said Srinivasan was of the view that such a matter should not have been brought up under "any other items for discussion" in the agenda. He felt a proper discussion was necessary for such a resolution to be considered and approved.

Other Tata-affiliated trusts own 13.8% in Tata Sons.

Tata Trusts and Srinivasan did not respond to requests for comments.

The drama at the trust meeting came weeks after long-time trustee Mehli Mistry, a confidant of Ratan Tata, was ousted from the board. Mistry is related to the Shapoorji Pallonji family, which owns an 18.4% stake in Tata Sons.

Besides, 65.4% owned by Tata Trusts and 18.4% of Pallonji Mistry group, other shareholders hold the remaining 16.2% in Tata Sons.

The Shapoorji Pallonji family had been embroiled in a long-standing corporate shareholder dispute with the Tata family since the ousting of Cyrus Mistry (cousin of Mehli Mistry) as Tata Sons' Board Chairman in 2016. There is no one else left from the Mistry clan in the Tata Sons' Board of Directors.

While Ratan Tata was said to be the force behind the ouster of Cyrus, Mehli had made amends with the patriarch and become his close confidant. Mehli, who had supported the appointment of Noel as the chairman, along with two other trustees, had objected to certain decisions at the Trust.

Tata Motors' CV biz shares end 27% higher on debut trade

Tata Motors' demerger took effect from October 1

NEW DELHI, PTI

Shares of Tata Motors commercial vehicles business on Wednesday listed on the stock exchanges at a premium of 27% compared to their issue price.

The listing of CV business scrip under the parent entity came more than a month after Tata Motors completed its demerger by splitting into two independent entities. The passenger business arm, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd, was listed on October 14.

The scrip of commercial vehicle (CV) business of Tata Motors Ltd began trading at Rs 335, up 28.48% from its discovered price on the NSE. During the session, it rallied 32.31% to Rs 345.

Later, it ended at Rs 330, up by 26.56% on the exchange.

On the BSE, it listed at Rs 330.25, up 26.09%. In the session, it hit a high of Rs 346.75, up 32.4%. Finally, it ended the day at Rs 327.65, up 25.3%.

At the end of trading session, the company's market capitalisation stood at Rs 1,21,516.94 crore on the NSE.

In volume terms, 3.13 crore equity shares of the company were traded on the NSE while 21.25 lakh shares were exchanged hands on the BSE, during the day.

Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran, second from left, with Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of BSE, Sundararaman Ramamurthy, second from right, during the listing ceremony of Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles Ltd (TMLCV), at BSE, in Mumbai, on Wednesday. PTI PHOTO

Defining moment, says N Chandrasekaran

MUMBAI, PTI: Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran on Wednesday termed the listing of Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles a "defining moment" in the company's journey as well as for the automotive industry. At the listing ceremony of Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles at BSE, Chandrasekaran said, "It is truly a momentous occasion, a very important milestone... a defining moment... for the combined Tata Motors' journey, if I may say so, also for the automotive industry."

Terming Tata Motors an "iconic" company, he said it is very difficult to make structural changes to such a company.

Tata Motors' demerger took effect from October 1.

In 2024, Tata Motors announced the demerger of its businesses into two separate entities. As part of the demerger, the commercial vehicles business and related investments were moved into one company, while the passenger vehicles (PV) business, including PV, electric vehicles, Jaguar Land Rover and related investments, formed the other entity.

Tata Motors' passenger vehicle arm was renamed Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd following the split.

On the operational front, Tata Motors reported a 10% rise in total commercial vehicle sales at 37,530 units in October this year, compared with 34,259 units a year earlier.

Deep tech decade: Govt creating a solid base of skill sets

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka government will be calling the next 10 years as the deep tech decade, and we are creating a solid base of skill sets- reskilling and upskilling everyone in emerging technologies, said IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge.

Speaking at IVCA Circles — Bangalore Edition here on Wednesday, the minister said in a fireside chat with Rajan Anandan, Managing Director, Peak XV Partners and Surge and the Co-Chair of the VC Council, IVCA, that the government is mulling over a policy, in which startups, especially deep tech startups, can pilot with the government in a very small way.

"And if the pilot is successful, then we endorse the technology. Maybe not really buying this thing, but we endorse saying that it has worked successfully for the government within that and then if it is really solving the government's problem, then we adopt it on scale," he added.

"Our goal is to build globally employable talent, empower entrepreneurs beyond Bengaluru, and enable the next generation of deep tech solutions that will define India's future," the IT minister said.

Recently, the government announced Rs 600 crore investment for the Deep Tech Decade.

Bombay Shaving Company raises Rs 136 cr; eyes IPO

BENGALURU, DHNS: Personal care brand Bombay Shaving Company has raised Rs 136 crore in a combination of primary and secondary infusions. The round was led by Sixth Sense Ventures, with participation from Founder CEO Shantanu Deshpande, Patni Family Office, GII and HNIs. The round also saw participation from marquee investor, cricketer Rahul Dravid.

Gurugram-based Bombay Shaving Company has clocked a net revenue run-rate of Rs 550 crore and achieved PAT profitability, having doubled its performance over FY25. This fundraise comes at a time when the company is gearing up for a potential IPO.

The company focuses on designing and building grooming solutions for young India. Competing with large global giants like Gillette and Philips, the brand has garnered strong double-digit market shares in core categories, with particular growth in trimmers and electric shavers, as well as the women's category through the brand Bombae.

While areca has long been valued for its nuts, entrepreneurs and artisans are now using other parts of the tree to create utility and decor items. PHOTO BY SATISH BADIGER

As entrepreneurs explore diverse products, the demand for areca sheaths is growing.

Beyond the nut: The many uses of ARECA

From leaves and husks to sap and timber, entrepreneurs and artisans are finding innovative uses for every part of the areca palm, writes Dhanyata M Poovaiah

India is the world's leading producer, consumer and even importer of areca nut, which is cultivated mainly in the southern and the northeastern states. While India accounts for over 60% of the global output, Karnataka alone contributes around 70% of the country's production.

The prized Sirsi Supari from Uttara Kannada, known for its distinctive flavour, shape and texture, remains the only areca nut variety in India to have earned the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

"For centuries, areca nut palms have been cultivated in areas with well-drained soil in Karnataka's Malnad region which enjoys a warm-humid climate and abundant rainfall. With expanding irrigation facilities, cultivation has now spread to other parts of the state," says Athirath Biluve, a fourth-generation areca nut grower from Shivamogga.

While the areca palm has long been valued for its nut consumed with betel leaves and used in religious rituals, social customs and cultural practices, it is now at the centre of an entrepreneurial wave. Researchers, entrepreneurs and artisans are exploring the innovative uses for every part of the palm, from leaves and husks to sap and timber.

"Areca palm byproducts offer a sustainable and eco-friendly alternative to many commonly used products. From furniture to leather, the possibilities are immense," says journalist and farmer Shree Padre, who has long advocated for sustainability.

One of the most visible byproducts is areca leaf tableware — sturdy and biodegradable plates, bowls and cutlery made from fallen palm leaves sheath. The sheaths are collected, cleaned and heat-pressed into shape using moulds. Free of chemicals, these products are fully compostable, freezer/microwave-safe and a popular alternative to single use plastic and paper tableware.

Footwear, handbag and diaries made using areca leaf sheath and its byproducts.

Chogaru, a concentrated red liquid obtained during the processing of the red areca nut variety, is now being used as a natural dye.

Natural dye

Another byproduct with growing potential is chogaru, a concentrated red liquid obtained during the processing of the red areca nut variety, mainly grown in Malnad region. Rich in tannins, *chograu* is generally discarded but textile artisans are now turning it into a natural dye.

"*Chogaru* yields shades ranging from maroon and garnet to brown. It works beautifully on natural fabrics like cotton, silk and wool," says Terence Peter of Charaka, a Cooperative Weavers' Society in Shivamogga. The cooperative purchases *chogaru* from farmers at Rs 100 per litre, creating an additional income stream.

Chogaru dye is also being used for tanning leather.

Repurposing into timber

Mature areca palms which grow over 50 feet tall, can also be repurposed into timber once they die of natural causes or disease.

"Areca nut timber is strong and durable," notes Santosh Kumar, an entrepreneur from Sagara, who crafts furniture and decor items from the wood.

"Decades back, the trunk was used to build attics but in recent years it was being discarded as waste. Now, we are turning them into furniture and other products," he says.

Santosh makes benches, wall panels, wall partitions, easy-to-install picket fences and decor items from areca nut palm. However, Santosh said, working with areca nut timber is not easy as it requires specialised machinery and trained hands.

Santosh sees immense potential in converting areca nut timber to plywood, highlighting the need for more research and development.

Organic manure

Areca leaves and husks, once burned as waste, have found new life as organic manure. "We mix dried leaves and husk with cow dung to prepare a slurry, then add red earthworms (Eisenia fetida) to create vermicompost," explains Ravi K G, team manager of Mysuru-based Surabhi Plantech.

The process of preparing manure takes about four months. "The manure, if stored well, has no expiry and is more cost-effective than chemical fertilisers," Ravi adds.

Rise of vegan leather

In another example of innovation, the leaf sheaths of areca palms are now being transformed into vegan leather.

"Plant latex is used as a base for this vegan leather. Areca fibres have excellent texture and strength though the small size of the sheaths is a challenge," says Shivamogga's Suresh S R, an entrepreneur and patent holder in this emerging field.

Combining cotton with areca fibre yields PeTA-certified biodegradable leather that rivals animal hide in durability and flexibility. "It has good tensile and shear strength, and is water-efficient with lower carbon emissions," Suresh says.

The material can mimic the texture of snake or elephant skin and is currently used to make wallets, handbags, slippers and diary covers.

Spirited innovation

The areca nut has even found its way into the world of winemaking. Talisva Wines based out of Shivamogga, founded by Sushma Sanjay and her son Akarsh Sanjay, has created a *paan*-flavoured wine blending honey, betel leaves and areca nut.

"Chewing *paan* is part of our culture but younger people find it inconvenient and unappealing. We thought, why not reimagine it as a drink?" says Akarsh. The result is a sweet and spicy wine with 9% alcohol and the distinct aroma of betel leaf.

Sustainable efforts

Despite being the world's largest producer, India still uses areca nut mainly for chewing and rituals. In contrast, countries in Southeast Asia have diversified its use, especially for its medicinal properties. Areca nut flavoured toothpaste, ice creams, squash apart from its use as an adhesive material are some of the other potential uses.

"We need to learn from them and diversify our approach," says Shree Padre.

"Diversification, research and commercialisation are crucial. Any new discovery or invention generally culminates with paper publication and does not enter the market. With sustained support and proper funding, areca can become not just a crop but a symbol of a circular, sustainable economy," he adds.

According to experts, the adoption of sustainable and eco-friendly products has been slow, mainly due to low awareness and higher price point.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

Rediscovering Akkadevi's lost capital

Arasibidi, once alive with political vitality and cultural brilliance, now stands as a silent witness to the reign of a powerful Chalukya princess, writes Vijay Mahantesh Papanal

The Chalukyas of Kalyana (973 CE to 1184 CE) occupy a luminous place in the history of the country. Their reign was marked by egalitarian governance, valour in battle and magnificent achievements in art, architecture and literature. The empire was graced with not only valiant men but also formidable women whose prowess in governance and warfare often rivalled, or even surpassed, their male counterparts. One such remarkable figure was princess Akkadevi, whose reign stands as a testament to female strength and visionary leadership.

Akkadevi ruled an administrative division known as Kisukadu-70 (in addition to a few other divisions) from its capital city, Arasibidi. The term *Kisukadu*, in pre-old Kannada, means 'land of red soil'. Arasibidi, located in present-day Ilkal taluk of Bagalkot district, was one of the sub-capitals of the Kalyana Chalukyas, established for seamless governance alongside the main capital, Basavakalyana, in today's Bidar district. Locally, the place was known as Arasibuddi, a colloquial variation of Arasibidi, a name believed to mean either 'the queen's path' or 'the queen's dwelling place'. As per epigraphical records, Akkadevi was the daughter of Dashavarma and Bhagyavathi (Bhagaladevi), though she is often misidentified as the daughter of Vikramaditya V.

While the inscriptions at Jodu Kalasa temple in Sudi (in present-day Gadag district) calls Akkadevi as the younger sister of the ruler Vikramaditya V, other inscriptions and coins of that era hail her as *Sri Gunada Bedangi* or the beauty of virtues, an epithet that encapsulates both her grace and greatness. She was described as *Bhairavi*, a fierce incarnation of Goddess Durga, in the battlefield when she laid siege to Gokage fort (today's Gokak) and was celebrated for her administrative acumen.

From 1010 CE onwards, Akkadevi's rule extended across several regions, with Arasibidi (known in epigraphical records as Vikramapura) serving as her stronghold.

The city flourished under Akkadevi's stewardship long before the time of Vikramaditya VI, the most celebrated emperor among all of the Kalyana Chalukya emperors, or his queen Jakaladevi, to whom the town's construction is often mistakenly attributed. Vikramaditya-VI, who ascended the throne in 1076 CE, was the grandson of Akkadevi's younger brother and hence, Arasibidi could have most probably been built during and named as Vikramapura after either Vikramaditya-IV or Vikramaditya-V.

The gold coins embossed with Akkadevi's epithet discovered in Telangana's Madugula village recently. PHOTO/ASI

Golden discovery

Recently, two gold coins embossed with Akkadevi's epithet were discovered in Madugula, Telangana. The coins were handed to Munirathnam Reddy, director of epigraphy, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) with the assistance of D Raja Reddy, a numismatist, for official authentication. These coins are academically called as Padma-Tankas in contradistinction to the commonly used phrase 'punch marked gold coins' and highlights the distinctive category of medieval Karnataka gold coinage. Each coin bears the inscription *Sri Gunada Bedangi* in old Kannada language and script, reaffirming Akkadevi's historical identity. These *Padma-Tankas*, named for their structural design, were once among the most widely circulated gold coins of medieval India. Their reputation was such that King Harsha of Kashmir (1089–1101 CE) issued imitative coinage modelled on them, a fact recorded by the 12th-century Kashmiri poet Kalhana in his *Rajatarangini*. Verse 926 in Book 7 of *Rajatarangini* describes how much these *Padma-Tankas* of medieval Karnataka were cherished and imitated throughout India.

A forgotten city

Once a bustling administrative hub, Arasibidi is a silent remnant of its glorious past. The landscape is dotted only with two dilapidated Jain temples, standing on either side of a narrow road atop a small hillock. A broken stone inscription on the ground stands as a poignant metaphor for the site's present desolation. It is high time the state and central archaeological departments stepped in to preserve what remains of this lost capital, once alive with political vitality and cultural brilliance.

One of the dilapidated Jain temples at Arasibidi. PHOTO BY AUTHOR

Gomi Teni: A weave inspired by the land and its roots

A 12th century textile from North Karnataka, with its jowar-inspired patterns and earthy dyes, finds new expression through today's artisans, writes Hemalatha Jain

A few years ago, while exploring the weaving clusters of North Karnataka, I came across a faded piece of cloth with an unfamiliar design — neat, rhythmic forms that looked like tiny grains of jowar. The weaver who showed it to me called it *Gomi Teni*.

That moment began a journey into a forgotten textile that once carried deep meaning for the people of the Deccan, a weave that symbolised prosperity, fertility and continuity.

A weave from the past

The story of *Gomi Teni* reaches back to the 12th century when handlooms were part of daily life in the Deccan region. In the villages of Bagalkot, Gadag, Ron and the surrounding taluks, women wove cotton fabrics not only for utility but also to mark the milestones of life.

Among their creations, *Gomi Teni* held special significance. Its recurring jowar motif — stylised in simple, geometric form — represented fertility and abundance. In this semi-arid land, jowar was more than a crop; it was sustenance and survival.

Traditionally, the cloth was gifted to expectant mothers. Draping a woman in *Gomi Teni* was both a gesture of care and a blessing, a wish that the new life she carried would grow as strong and enduring as the sorghum that fed the region.

A woman weaves a Gomi Teni saree at Gajendragad cluster near Gadag. PHOTO BY AUTHOR

Tracing the clues

When I first saw the fabric during my ethnographic study, there was little written about it. So, I began asking older weavers in Ron and Guledgudda what they remembered. Some recalled presenting the saree during baby showers; others mentioned motifs resembling stalks of grain.

Those oral memories helped me understand its name. In the rural context, *Gomi Teni* meant the cloth of abundance or cloth of blessing.

The surviving piece was woven in natural-dyed cotton, in the earthy palette of the Deccan — indigo blues, turmeric yellows and madder reds. Every shade came from local plants and minerals, connecting the textile to the very soil of the land.

Reviving the weave

As a textile revivalist, I felt *Gomi Teni* deserved a return to the loom. Working with artisans from Guledgudda and Bagalkot, we began reconstructing the pattern based on the old sample and oral descriptions.

The process was painstaking. Weavers had to modify their pit looms, relearn older methods and rediscover the rhythm of motifs long forgotten.

After several trials, the first revived *Gomi Teni* emerged — a soft, textured cotton with the jowar motif glinting gently in natural dye. It felt as if the past had spoken again, through the hands of today's artisans.

Now, several weavers in Gajendragad and Gadag are producing these revived versions. Each piece is slightly different — as all handmade things are — yet everyone carries the same blessings once woven centuries ago.

What continues to delight me is how this story resonates even today. When customers hear about the symbolism of *Gomi Teni*, there is often a spark of joy and surprise. Many expectant mothers or those buying a saree for someone pregnant, instinctively choose this weave.

They see it not just as a garment but as a gesture, a continuation of an old tradition of sharing blessings through fabric. Watching their faces light up as they hear the story feels like witnessing the old ritual come alive again, this time across counters and conversations in urban settings rather than in village courtyards.

Threads that endure

For me, Gomi Teni is more than a textile, it is a record of women's creativity and their bond with the rhythms of life. These weaves were made not for markets or kings but for community — for family, fertility and faith.

When I stand in a weaving workshop today, listening to the soft clatter of looms, I often think of the weaver who first wove *Gomi Teni* eight centuries ago — drawing inspiration from the jowar fields outside their homes, weaving blessings for those they loved.

The *Gomi Teni* reminds us that textiles are not just cloth — they are memory, story and prayer. In each thread lies a piece of our shared past and in every revival, a promise to carry it forward.

Saikhom Borish Singh (left) celebrates scoring Kickstart FC's opening goal during their 1-1 draw against Roots FC in the KSFA Super Division League Championship at the BFS on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN

FCBU win to close in on leaders Kickstart

BENGALURU, DHNS: With the battle for top honours heating up, FC Bengaluru United notched up a win to close in on leaders Kickstart FC who could only muster a draw in their 16th game in the KSFA Super Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Wednesday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Dhruv Sharma, Ribhav Sardessi and Junain Kadvalth netted one goal apiece to blank FC Real Bengaluru 3-0. Following Dhruv's opening goal in the 28th minute, Ribhav doubled FCBU's lead in the 66th before Junain scored his team's third and last goal of the match in the 82nd minute. The win took FCBU to 39 points and they stay at second spot with two more games remaining in the 19-team tournament.

Leaders Kickstart FC, on the other hand, were held to a 1-1 draw by Roots FC that gave them one point for a total 42 (13 wins, three draws) at the end of 16 games.

It was Saikhom Borish Singh who broke the deadlock in the 42nd minute for Kickstart FC and the squad defended that slender lead almost till the end. However, Konthoijam Amarjit Singh found the back of the net in the 88th minute to give Roots FC a late equaliser and deny their opponents another win.

Results: FC Bengaluru United: 3 (Dhruv Sharma 28th, Ribhav Sardessi 66th, Junain Kadvalth 82nd) bt FC Real Bengaluru: 0; BCFC: 2 (Prasanna Swaminathan 42nd, RS JIcis 76th) bt Rebels FC: 1 (Mahin Riza R 87th); Kickstart FC: 1 (Saikhom Borish Singh 42nd) drew with Roots FC: 1 (Konthoijam Amarjit Singh 88th).

TENNIS BILLIE JEAN KING CUP

Sahaja eyes another giant kill

Indian hopes rest on the shoulders of their top-ranked player on home turf

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Indian women's tennis has a chance to script history in the Garden City, as they have a shot at qualifying for the next year's Billie Jean King Cup Qualifiers for the first time. The task, however, is easier said than done as they take on two-time finalists Netherlands and former World Group quarterfinalists Slovenia over the weekend in the playoffs.

Making their second appearance in the BJKC playoffs since exiting at the same stage to Latvia back in 2021, the five-member side feels optimistic about their chances of springing a surprise. That's because of the recent form of most of the team members, including India's No. 1 Sahaja Yamalapalli (world ranking 309).

If you are reading too much into her ranking, especially when she will be up against the Netherlands on Saturday with a possible matchup against world No. 87 Suzan Lamens, you are already making a mistake.

That's because the 25-year-old Hyderabadi, who competed in the US collegiate, is a giant killer and she made it evident with a straight-set victory (6-2, 6-2) over 2017 US Open champion Sloane Stephens at a WTA 125 event in Mexico last month.

"I was a bit nervous before the match given the stature of somebody like her (Sloane) but I treated it just like a normal match," Sahaja told *DH*. "I decided not to read too much into what she achieved in the past and treated her like any other opponent. I was pleased with the way I went about the match as I played my best tennis."

One may still argue that Sloane has not been her best due to an injury layoff but Sahaja gave further confirmation of her form with her maiden win at a WTA 250 event late October in Chennai.

Coming to Bengaluru, the city is special for her as the Hyderabad-born athlete, who is known for her aggressive baseline play, trains at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence. At the Bengaluru WTA 100 back in January, Sahaja admittedly found her rhythm for the first time with a run to the quarterfinals while defeating much higher-ranked opponents.

On Monday, she will be looking to break the duck in the Billie Jean King Cup as she is yet to win any of her matches (four in singles and one in doubles) in the competition. Ask Sahaja, he is unfazed by such statistics and is eager to don the Indian colours.

"I'm really excited for the upcoming ties. It's always a special feeling to represent India it's not something we get to do often in tennis. To come together as a team with one goal and play for the country gives a completely different kind of energy and motivation. The atmosphere, the support from team-mates, and the pride of wearing India on your back, it's something I truly look forward to," she said.

The current lot of women's tennis are yet to come out of the shadows of the legendary Sania Mirza, whose success at the international level remains unmatched since her retirement a couple of years ago. While Sahaja has big shoes to fill, the youngster is smart enough to understand that progress takes time and is unwilling to be written off.

"I think we're a group that's growing and learning every season. I'd say we're beginning to live up to our potential with four Indians in the top 500 list now. It's not just one player breaking through—it's a few of us pushing each other, which is very important. There's still a long way to go, but the mindset and belief are definitely changing in a positive direction," concluded Sahanja.

India's Sahaja Yamalapalli, who beat 2017 US Open champion Sloane Stephens at a WTA 125 event in Mexico last month, is hoping to replicate that in the Billie Jean King Cup playoffs this weekend in Bengaluru. DH FILE PHOTO

Indians endure a tough day

Pragg, Erigaisi, Hari draw games to feature in tie-breaks

MANISHA MOHITE

Arjun Erigaisi, R Praggnanandhaa and Pentala Harikrishna drew both their games in the fourth round and will feature in the tie-break to stake a claim in the last 16. World junior champion Pranav Venkatesh and Karthik Venkataraman ended on the losing side today and are eliminated from the event.

It was a disappointing day overall for the Indians in fray on Wednesday at the FIDE World Cup being played at Resort Rio in Goa. All the five Indian players failed to notch even a single victory in both their games of the fourth round.

Five players -- Levon Aronian, Alexey Donchenko, Martinez Alcantara, Nodirbek Yakubboev and Liem Quang Le -- have breezed into the fifth round of this knockout event which started with 206 players. As many as 22 players will fight for survival in the tie-break on Thursday and only 11 of them will enter the last-16.

It was an interesting encounter between Erigaisi, the highest rated Indian player and Hungarian Peter Leko. Leko opted for the Nimzo Indian defence and Erigaisi's speed in belting out the moves indicated that the Indian was well prepared. Leko defended dourly to earn a draw after 36 moves with each having two rooks and two minor pieces along with identical number of pawns.

Round 4.2 results (Indians unless mentioned): Arjun Erigaisi drew Peter Leko (HUN) 1-1; Daniil Dubov (Rus) drew R Praggnanandhaa 1-1; Nodirbek Yakubboev (UZB) bt Pranav Venkatesh 1.5-0.5; Pentala Harikrishna drew Nils Grandelius (SWE) 1-1; Karthik Venkataraman lt to Liem Quang Le (VIE) 0.5-1.5.

Arjun Erigaisi's (left) speed was countered by a defensive Peter Leko for their duel to end in a draw in the fourth round of the Chess World Cup in Goa on Wednesday.

Auger-Aliassime scores a win

TURIN (ITALY), AFP

Felix Auger-Aliassime

Felix Auger-Aliassime got his ATP Finals bid up and running on Wednesday by beating Ben Shelton 4-6, 7-6 (9/7), 7-5 ahead of Jannik Sinner's clash with Alexander Zverev.

Canada's Auger-Aliassime won just his second ever match at the season-ending tournament with a battling display in Turin, coming back from a poor start to boost his hopes of reaching the semi-finals.

His win means that current world number one Sinner will qualify from the Bjorn Borg Group if he beats Zverev later in front of a partisan home crowd.

Auger-Aliassime's imposing service game, which included nine aces, eventually broke down Shelton whose erratic play cost him a debut win at the Finals.

The 25-year-old showed no signs of having the calf problem which affected his opening loss to Sinner, and he will face Zverev on Friday with a chance of making the knockout stage.

Shelton looked to be in control when he won the first set at the first opportunity, breaking Auger-Aliassime's serve for the second time just after having his initial break cancelled out.

Sen advances in Japan Masters

KUMAMOTO (JAPAN), PTI: India's Lakshya Sen **(in pic)** stormed into the second round of the men's singles event at the Kumamoto Masters Japan badminton tournament after registering a straight game win over Koki Watanabe here on Wednesday.

Sen, seeded seventh here, took just 39 minutes to breeze past his world no.26 Japanese opponent 21-12, 21-16.

The world no.15 sen will next be up against the winner of the match between Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh and Victor Lai of Canada.

But it was end of the road for another Indian Kiran George after he lost 20-22, 10-21 to Malaysia's Jing Hong Kok.

The mixed doubles pair of Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde also made a first round exit but not without putting up a brave fight. The Indians lost 12-21, 21-19, 20-22 to the American combination of Presley Smith and Jennie Gai.

Indian b'ball takes a leap of faith

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

One may only get ridiculed if a budding Indian cager says he or she harbours the dream of making a career in the game. That's because India stands nowhere in comparison to the grand world of the NBA.

However, Indian basketball has much more to offer with a history as old as 75 years and a best finish of fourth place at the 1951 Asian Games. Cut to 2025, the scene is thriving, making the current generation of national players hopeful of a bright future with its first-ever high-performance centre at the Lakshyan Academy of Sports in Sarjapur here in the city.

The state-of-the-art facility, unveiled by the Basketball Federation of India and ACG Sports, has been housing the top 50 Indian players (25 men and women each) for the last two months and has three FIBA-standard courts, well-equipped gymnasiums and a world-standard 25-metre swimming pool.

To top it off, BFI and ACG also announced that the inaugural Indian Basketball League, Indian contemporary of the NBA, will also be organised next year.

With the private parties coming on board, the BFI has also streamlined a monthly wage of Rs 75,000 for each of the players, which does the female players a world of good.

Karnataka team pose with the Women's U-19 T20 Trophy after beating Andhra Pradesh in the final in Kolkata on Wednesday.

Deeksha's five-star show leads Karnataka to glory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deeksha J Honnusree's five-wicket haul in the all-important Women's U-19 T20 Trophy (Elite) final proved decisive as Karnataka took home the title with a seven-wicket victory over Andhra Pradesh in Kolkata on Wednesday.

The 18-year-old orthodox bowler (5/21) spun a web around in-form Andhra batters to restrict them at 119/9 in 20 overs. Andhra innings collapsed from a good 88/4 in the last seven overs while Vandita Rao (2/18) and Veda Varshini (2/21) took wickets from the other end as well. The day, however, belonged to Deeksha, who took three of her wickets in the 19th over.

Her namesake, Deeksha CD then played a knock of 47 not out (39 balls) to bring Karnataka home after minor hiccups as the wicketkeeper-batter forged an unbeaten stand of 65 runs with Kashvi Kandikuppa (27 not out off 20 balls). The partnership took Karnataka to 120/3 with 14 balls to spare.

Opener Liyanka Shetty earlier scored a run-a-ball 28 to keep the scoreboard moving while Karnataka lost all three of their wickets in the first 10 overs.

Deeksha J also collected the player of the match award for her efforts while her teammate Rachitha Hatwar was awarded player of the tournament as she finished as the top run-scorer with 234 runs, including two half-centuries.

Brief scores: Andhra Pradesh: 119/9 in 20 overs (Deeksha Katragadda 36, Setu Sai 45; Vandita Rao 2-18, Deeksha J 5-21, Veda Varshini 2-21) lt to Karnataka: 120/3 in 17.4 overs (Liyanka Shetty 28, Deeksha CD 47 n.o., Kashvi Kandikuppa 27 n.o.). **PoM:** Deeksha J Honnusree. **PoS:** Rachitha Hatwar.

LA '28 Oly Games schedule revealed

LOS ANGELES, AFP: The 2028 Los Angeles Olympics competition schedule was unveiled on Wednesday by organizers, including a showcase spot for the women's 100m.

LA28 revealed a detailed schedule earlier than usual. It starts with the opening ceremony on July 14 and ends with the closing ceremony on July 30.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, U. R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, HAL AIRPORT ROAD, VIMANAPURA POST, BENGALURU - 560 017
Phone: 080 2508-4156/4318/4185
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate tenders are invited for the following work.

Description	Details				
Name of work	Electrical Works for proposed Power Electronics Labs at Solar Panel & Battery Lab and other minor works at LN2 Yard & C&MG, URSC-ISITE Campus, Marathahalli, Bengaluru	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Power Fencing System at URSC Main Campus, Bengaluru	Rerouting of cables of LT panels at 66 kV Substation, URSC Main Campus, Bengaluru	Alternate road with Gate for Spacecraft Movement (Electrical works) and providing LED light fittings in Spot light area, Ground Floor, Main Building at URSC Main Campus, Bengaluru	Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Integrated Building Management System at AITF-2 building at URSC-ISITE Campus, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037
E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/E/M/13/2025-26 Dt. 29/10/2025	URSC/C&MG/E/M/14/2025-26 Dt. 06/11/2025	URSC/C&MG/E/M/15/2025-26 Dt. 06/11/2025	URSC/C&MG/E/M/16/2025-26 Dt. 06/11/2025	URSC/C&MG/E/M/17/2025-26 Dt. 07/11/2025
Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 20.32 Lakhs	₹ 19.01 Lakhs	₹ 23.22 Lakhs	₹ 10.61 Lakhs	₹ 19.67 Lakhs
Tender Document details	E-Tender				
Period of completion	Eight (08) Months	Five (05) Months	Six (06) Months	Four (04) Months	Eight (08) Months
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	From: 18:10 Hrs on 03/11/2025 To: 23:59 Hrs on 17/11/2025	From: 18:10 Hrs on 10/11/2025 To: 23:59 Hrs on 24/11/2025	From: 18:10 Hrs on 11/11/2025 To: 23:59 Hrs on 24/11/2025	From: 18:10 Hrs on 11/11/2025 To: 23:59 Hrs on 24/11/2025	From: 18:10 Hrs on 10/11/2025 To: 23:59 Hrs on 24/11/2025
Bid clarification	From: 19:00 Hrs on 03/11/2025 To:14:30 Hrs on 18/11/2025	From: 19:00 Hrs on 10/11/2025 To:14:30 Hrs on 25/11/2025	From: 19:00 Hrs on 11/11/2025 To:14:30 Hrs on 25/11/2025	From: 19:00 Hrs on 11/11/2025 To:14:30 Hrs on 25/11/2025	From: 19:00 Hrs on 10/11/2025 To:14:30 Hrs on 25/11/2025
Last date of reply to Bid Clarification	Upto: 18:00 Hrs on 21/11/2025	Upto: 18:00 Hrs on 28/11/2025	Upto: 18:00 Hrs on 27/11/2025	Upto: 18:00 Hrs on 27/11/2025	Upto: 18:00 Hrs on 28/11/2025
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Upto: 14:00 Hrs on 24/11/2025	Upto: 14:00 Hrs on 01/12/2025	Upto: 14:00 Hrs on 28/11/2025	Upto: 14:00 Hrs on 28/11/2025	Upto: 14:00 Hrs on 01/12/2025
Due date and time of opening of tenders	14:30 Hrs on 24/11/2025	14:30 Hrs on 01/12/2025	14:30 Hrs on 28/11/2025	14:30 Hrs on 28/11/2025	14:30 Hrs on 01/12/2025
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 40,640/-	Rs. 38,020/-	Rs. 46,440/-	Rs. 21,220/-	Rs. 39,340/-

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in **website:www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/-,
Group Director (C&MG)

Directorate of Medical Education
BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Phone: 080-22870060 Fax: 080-22875798
E-mail: dmekarnataka@yahoo.com

No: ME/Tender/04/2025-26 **Date: 11-11-2025**

NOTICE

Tender is invited through the GeM Portal **(Bid No: GEM/2025/B/6835849)** for the **Purchase of Dental Equipments on Turnkey basis required for Government Dental College and Research Institute, Bengaluru.**
Interested tenderers shall view and submit tenders in the GeM Portal (Government e-Marketplace). All other details can be viewed in GeM Portal.

Sd/- Director
DIPR/CP/3732/Adverto/2025-26 **Directorate of Medical Education, Bengaluru.**

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
Metro Rail Depot, Old Madras Road, Near NGEF Bus Stop, Baiyappanahalli, Bengaluru-560 038 Ph:080-25191039
e-Mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in
Bid No. BMRCL/2024-25/BG/WORK_INDENT63/Call-2 Date: 12.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

BMRCL invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for **"Petty Repair works in Reach 4A of Line-2 under SSM Department".** The works details can be obtained from the procurement website. The Tender documents can be obtained and submitted **on or before 18.11.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from website at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Director (O&M)

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department. Office of the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal. Phone & Fax No : 08539-220054 email: eemidnkst@rediffmail.com

No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2025-26/3832 **Dated:11.11.2025**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal district invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents KW-1,3 & KW-4 on KPP portal for 7 no. of tender works pertaining to Raichur district The Approximate amount for the mentioned works Ranges between Rs.20.00 Lakhs to 545.00 Lakhs. Two cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed.

For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after **14-11-2025**. Last date & time for receipt of tender is **24-11-2025** time 17.30 hours, Pre bid meeting will be held on **18-11-2025,** 11.00 Hours at division office koppal, Date & time for opening of technical bid **26-11-2025** time 11.00 hours, date and time for opening of financial bid **28-11-2025** time 11.00 hours (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal.

DIPR/Koppal/445/KSMCA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, HUBBALLI

KMCRI/SUP(5)/Surgical Oncology/Tender-01/145/2025-26 **Dated 10-11-2025**

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರು **ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರದಾರರು, ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರು, ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಏಜೆಂಟ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವಿತರಕರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.&ಆರ್.ಐ. ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ Surgical Oncology ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ Bone Cutting Saw ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಖರೀದಿಕೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ಶಾಸನ 2000 ಅನ್ವಯ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **htpps://ww.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- (ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು),
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

KARNATAKA STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
3rd Floor, 5th Stage, M.S. Building, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560 001

No.:HRC 144 ADM 2025 **Date:11.11.2025**

BRIEF NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited for 01 post of Registrar in the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission, to be filled temporarily on contract basis from eligible candidates, for a period till the post is duly filled on deputation by the Government or until orders of the Commission. Detailed Notification and application format is published on the website of the Commission **www.kshrc.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for submitting application is **28.11.2025.**

Sd/- Secretary (I/c)
DIPR/CP/JA/3728/2025-26 **Karnataka State Human Rights Commission**

IN BRIEF

India beat Aus in blind WC

▸ India continued their dominant run at the women's blind cricket World Cup by delivering a thumping 209-run victory over Australia in the third game, reports DHNS.
Brief scores: India: 292/4 in 20 overs (Deepika 91, Phula Saren 54 n.o.) bt Australia: 57 all out in 19.3 overs (Chanakan Buakhao n.o.). **Result:** India won by 209 runs. **PoM:** Deepika TC B3 (India).

Anahat loses, Rathika in semis

▸ Talented Indian squash player Anahat Singh took lead against Egyptian eighth seed and world No. 15 Sana Ibrahim but could not sustain the momentum, losing 11-5, 6-11, 4-11, 7-11 in the round of 16 match at the China Open in Shanghai on Wednesday, reports PTI from New Delhi.

At the Bondi Open PSA Challenger event in Sydney, top seed Rathika Suthanthira Seelan progressed to the semifinals after beating compatriot Aaradhana Kasturiraj 11-8, 11-3, 11-5 and followed that up with a 11-7, 11-3, 11-3 win over Thailand's Anantana Prasertratanakul in the quarterfinals.

TT meet in Dharwad

▸ Kosmos Club Dharwad will be conducting a State-ranking table tennis tournament from Nov 20-23 at Kosmos Club, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

Events will be conducted in U-15, U-17 and U-19 categories for both boys and girls as well men's and women's sections.

Last date for receipt of entries is Nov 15. For details contact: Veeresh Kalmatt (9886466576) or submit entries online at https://karnatakatabletennis.web.app.

Tanush's four powers Bosch

▸ Tanush PV scored four goals as Bosch Sports Club hammered Bijapur District Hockey Association 7-1 in the KSHA 'C' Division Hockey League Championship on Wednesday, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.
Result: Bosch Sports Club: 7 (Tanush PV 2nd, 8th, 24th, 29th, Manoj Kumar B 14th, Koushik MR 30th, Santhosh MV 33rd) bt Bijapur District Hockey Association: 1 (Abid 44th).

India enter compound mixed title round

DHAKA, PTI: India's medal surge continued at the Asian Archery Championships here on Wednesday, with the compound mixed team of Abhishek Verma and Deepshikha storming into the final, while the recurve archers stayed in medal contention after advancing to the bronze playoff.

The second-seeded Indian compound duo outclassed Kazakhstan 156-153 in a one-sided semifinal to confirm another medal.

They will take on hosts Bangladesh, who stunned South Korea 158-153.

With this, India have assured themselves of five medals, while remaining in the hunt for seven more.

In the recurve section, the new-look mixed pair of Yashdeep Bhoge and Anshika Kumari overcame Bangladesh 5-1 to enter the semifinals before losing 0-6 to Chinese Taipei.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET
5th T20I: New Zealand vs West Indies (**6:45 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

TENNIS
ATP Finals: Doubles round robin (**4 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2.**

BADMINTON
Japan Open: Round Of 16 (**5:30 am**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

CRICKET TEST SERIES

JUREL EMERGES out of Pant's shadows

In-form wicketkeeper to play SA series as a specialist batter

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Instances of India fielding two specialist wicketkeepers in a Test match have been rare. To go back to recent times, Dinesh Karthik opened the innings during MS Dhoni's reign. Even Wriddhiman Saha's debut in 2010 came about accident following a freak injury to Rohit Sharma, who was also in line to make his debut, on the morning of the Nagpur Test against South Africa.

The common link between the aforementioned instances is more compulsion than any tactical manoeuvre.

Dhruv Jurel is set to break this "tradition" if one were to go by the Indian team's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate who said he would be "surprised" to see the Uttar Pradesh wicketkeeper-batter not featuring in the first of two Tests, along with first-choice Rishabh Pant, against South Africa, beginning here at Eden Gardens on Friday.

While the right-hander had ensured he remains the team's first choice in the absence of Pant with consistent performances since his debut against England in 2024, his two centuries in the second four-day match against South Africa A in Bengaluru have forced the team management to play him as a specialist batter. Ten Doeschate confirmed as much to a pointed question in his address to the media, ahead of India's practice session here on Wednesday

"I don't think you can leave him out for this Test," said the former Dutch batter. "This is a short answer. Obviously you can only pick 11, so someone else will have to miss out. I think we've got a pretty good idea of the combination and given the way Jurel's gone in the last six months and scoring two 100s in Bangalore last week, he's certain to play this week."

Jurel's rise has been nothing short of remarkable. Since making his debut against England in 2024, the Uttar Pradesh cricketer has steadily built a case as one of India's most reliable red-ball performers. His twin centuries in the recent four-day match against South Africa A in Bengaluru only reinforced that narrative.

The soon-to-be 25-year-old already boasts four centuries in his last five first-class matches, including his maiden Test hundred against West Indies in Ahmedabad. Add to that four half-centuries against Australia A and England Lions, including a gritty 94 in Canterbury, and you see why the selectors view him as more than just a backup wicketkeeper.

After seven Tests, scattered over four series (two home and as many away), Jurel has 430 runs at an impressive average of 47.77. While this is a small sample and the true class of a batter can only be judged by years of work, the Kargil hero's son ranks among the best wicketkeeper-batters in the world. Only the greats like Kumar Sangakkara (57.40), Andy Flower (51.54) and AB de Villiers (50.66) are above him in terms of Test batting averages. This is not to suggest Jurel already belongs to that club, but the promise is hard to miss.

That he averages 58 after 30 first-class matches shows he has a solid footing in multi-day matches. Jurel's ability to alloy white-ball flair with red-ball solidity, makes him an ideal option in the middle-order (No. 6) where he can either accelerate or anchor the innings depending upon the situation.

What has also been impressive about Jurel is his ability to perform under pressure. In his second Test against England in Ranchi, he walked in at 161/5 in reply to visitors' 353 all out. It soon became 171/6 before Jurel came up with a 90 that helped India cut the deficit to 47. In the same Test, he again displayed his penchant to respond to pressure with an unbeaten 39 during a match-winning stand of 72 for the sixth wicket with Shubman Gill.

On the other hand, Sai Sudharsan hasn't made great use of the opportunities he has been given while Devdutt Padikkal's form still hasn't compelled the team management to shake up the batting line-up.

"Again, like what I mentioned about Washi (Washington Sundar), Axar (Patel) and Jaddu (Ravindra Jadeja), for me you've actually got three batters there," said ten Doeschate.

During Dhoni's time, wicketkeepers often found themselves resigned to waiting behind the captain's firm presence. Jurel, in contrast, has kicked down the door with sheer performance. Even with the formidable Pant back in the fold, he's made himself impossible to ignore.

India may finally be ready to play two wicketkeepers; not out of some compulsion or from a strategic point of view, but because Jurel demands a place on merit.

apollo TYRES
We've got a pretty good idea of the combination and given the way Jurel's gone in the last six months he's certain to play this week.
Ten Doeschate, India's assistant coach
Dhruv Jurel smashing form in the recent months has too hard to ignore and the Indian team think-tank will play him as a specialist batter for the two Tests against South Africa starting Friday in Kolkata. PTI

Doeschate terms schedule 'super challenging'

MADHU JAWALI
KOLKATA, DHNS

The schedule for the Indian men's team has been brutal over the last year or so. And it's been particularly relentless for the last couple of months with all-format players like Shubman Gill playing without much break.

Team's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate termed the workload "super challenging" while advising a roadmap for that group of players, which is becoming increasingly smaller, who choose to ply their trade across three formats.

"You're seeing less and less guys playing all three formats across the world now. But I think mentally when you take on a challenge like that, you have to lay out a roadmap of how you're going to go about things. Shuby (Gill), as an example, has been very good. I think the Australian series, there was a lot of travelling but it wasn't a very taxing series. We spent a lot of time watching the rain fall.

"I think you have to switch on mentally to know that you've got 16, 17 days of really tough work in front of you and the body will take care of itself. The boys are putting in so much work to be physically stronger and to be aerobically more fit to spend longer time on the field. And I feel all of them are in really good shape at the moment, given where we are in the calendar so far this year."

Ten Doeschate all but ruled out Nitish Kumar Reddy from the opening Test given their decision to play wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel as a specialist batter with Pant also set to return to the Test squad after two successful outings against South Africa A.

"I always say strategy comes first," ten Doeschate noted. "The primary thing is to set up a strategy to win the game and if you can accommodate giving guys chance and giving guys chance for development, that comes in. Our position certainly hasn't changed on Nitish. He didn't get much game time in Australia. But I would say, given the importance of this series and given the conditions we think we're going to face, he might pass out in this Test."

India wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant (right) chats with head coach Gautam Gambhir during a practice session at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Wednesday. PTI

Reddy released to play South Africa A ODIs

KOLKATA, PTI: India seam-bowling all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy was on Wednesday released from the Test squad to play the ODI series against South Africa A, beginning in Rajkot on Thursday.

Earlier in the day during the nets, Reddy was seen bowling in tandem with Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj at full steam.

The seam-bowling all-rounder had a modest outing in the West Indies series that India swept 2-0, bowling just four overs in the opening Test and going wicketless.

His contribution with the bat was 43 runs from one innings. In the subsequent ODI series in Australia, he scored 19 not out and 8 in two matches.

"After practice at the Eden, he left for the airport to catch a flight to Rajkot," the local team manager said.

Having drawn the two-match four-day A series 1–1 in Bengaluru, the touring South Africa A side will now play a three-match ODI series in Rajkot beginning Thursday.

SA coach terms India their biggest challenge

MADHU JAWALI
KOLKATA, DHNS

Shukri Conrad has enjoyed great success in his 20 Tests as the head coach of the South African team, having seen Temba Bavuma and Co lift the World Test Championship in June this year and level the two-Test series against Pakistan before their India sojourn for a full-fledged bilateral engagement that begins with first of the two Tests here on Friday.

Conrad, without beating around the bush, acknowledged that the series against India is their biggest challenge.

"Look, India is a tough challenge anywhere in the world, and when you come to an iconic venue like Eden Gardens, it just makes it even tougher," Conrad said. "I don't think you can compare the quality of the sides we played against Pakistan to India and this will be our biggest challenge, certainly in my 20th match. I don't think there's been a bigger challenge. Yes, we had the (WTC) final against Australia that we won, which was massive. I compare this series and this match to that final, that's how big it is for us."

Shukri Conrad

The 58-year-old coach said his team would derive confidence from their spinners' performance against Pakistan. Between Keshav Maharaj (9 wkts, one Test), Senuran Muthusamy (11 wkts, two Tests) and Simon Harmer (13 wkts, two Tests), the three spinners took 33 wickets to show they can match Indian spinners in helpful conditions.

"I think previously, and this is not saying that we didn't have good spinners in the past, but certainly we think we've got a better pack of spinners now," Conrad emphasised.

No Rohit for Vijay Hazare?

MUMBAI, PTI: Former India captain Rohit Sharma has not yet communicated his availability for the Vijay Hazare Trophy, the country's premier 50-over competition, to the Mumbai Cricket Association.

The VHT will be held in Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Jaipur and Bengaluru from Dec 25 to Jan 18.

"There has been no communication as far as I am aware," a senior MCA official told PTI.

Keerthana Pandian

Keerthana, Anupama soar into semis

BENGALURU, DHNS: India's Keerthana Pandian and Anupama Ramachandran powered into the women's semifinals of the IBSF World Snooker Championships in Doha on Wednesday.

While Keerthana edged out Asian champion Narantuya Bayarsaikhan of Mongolia 3-1, Anupama, a former Asian champion, prevailed by a similar margin over Indonesia's Annabella Putri Yohana, the top seed, in another quarterfinal.

However, Amee Kamani, seeded No. 2 in the knockouts, let slip a 2-0 cushion and bowed out 2-3 to Hong Kong China's So Man Yan in another last-eight stage match. So Man had late on Tuesday evening knocked out young Natasha Chethan in the pre-quarters.
Results (Indians unless mentioned):
Men: Pre-quarterfinals: Michal Szubarczyk (Pol) bt Hussain Khan 4-0 (83-0, 80-66, 100 (100) -0, 60-20).
Women: Quarterfinals: Anupama Ramachandran bt Annabella Putri Yohana (Ina) 3-1 (76-15, 22-64, 66 (44) -15, 98 (50) -2); Keerthana Pandian bt Narantuya Bayarsaikhan (Mgl) 3-1 (44-69, 64-37, 60-37, 59-43); So Man Yan (HKC) bt Amee Kamani 3-2 (14-88, 26-65, 78 (61) -25, 59-13, 63-10).
Pre-quarters: Anupama bt Charlene Chai (Sin) 3-0 (72-49, 64-26, 69-20); Keerthana bt Yang Meng (Chn) 3-2 (67-45, 37-60, 51-54, 40-32, 53-15); So Man Yan bt Natasha Chethan 3-1 (52-41, 53-49, 25-64, 53-28).

Eight SL players set to return home from Pak

COLOMBO, PTI: Eight Sri Lankan players, currently touring Pakistan with the national team for a three-match ODI series, are set to return home on Thursday after expressing concern over their safety following a deadly bomb blast in Islamabad that left 12 people dead and several injured, a SLC source said on Wednesday.

The development means the second ODI scheduled in Rawalpindi on Thursday will not happen.

SWIM PRODIGY

13-year-old Yu Zidi smashes Asian record

BEIJING, AFP

Chinese swimming prodigy Yu Zidi (**in pic**) sent shockwaves through the swimming world again with a blistering Asian record time at China's National Games in Shenzhen.

Yu, who turned 13 in October, swam an impressive 2:07:41 to claim gold in the women's 200m individual medley on Tuesday. The schoolgirl from northern Hebei province beat the 2:07:57 her compatriot Ye Shiwen swam at the 2012 London Olympics, months before Yu was even born.

Yu's time, met with huge cheers and gaping jaws from shocked spectators in Shenzhen, was the ninth fastest of all time.

It also made her the second fastest woman this year globally, behind only Canada's world record holder Summer McIntosh.

She knocked nearly two seconds off her previous personal best time, set in Singapore in July.

Yu burst onto the world scene in Singapore by becoming the youngest swimmer in history to win a medal at the World Aquatic Championships, taking bronze as part of China's 4x200m freestyle relay team.

She also finished fourth in each of her three individual events -- the 400m medley, 200m butterfly and 200m medley. She is shaping as a major threat in future international competitions, including at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 2028, if her times continue to progress.

Ashi, Anjum, Sift miss 50m rifle 3P finals

CAIRO, PTI: Ashi Chouksey and Olympian Anjum Moudgil missed out on a place in the finals of the women's 50m rifle 3-positions event, finishing 15th and 17th respectively in qualification at the ISSF World Championships, here on Wednesday.

While Ashi shot 588, the seasoned Anjum managed 587. The third Indian in the fray, Olympian Sift Kaur Samra finished in 48th place with a score of 580.

Norway's Jeanette Hegg Duestad went on to become the world champion by shooting 465.8 in the eight-shooter final.

Switzerland's 17-year-old Emely Jaeggi won the silver with a score of 465.3 - a junior World record - while Seonaid Mcintosh of Great Britain took the bronze medal.

India maintained their second position behind China in the medal tally with three gold, five silver and three bronze.

Star power meets sports

BENGALURU, DHNS

The second season of the KNS Queens Premier League (QPL 2.0) continued its spirited run on Wednesday with an exciting line-up of chess, ludo, carrom and lagori matches at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium.

The day celebrated competitive spirit, camaraderie and women's growing presence in sports and entertainment.

The matches were inaugurated by veteran actresses Prema and Sudharani, who jointly declared the games open amid loud cheers from players and fans. Both actors fondly recalled their passion for sports and expressed happiness at supporting a platform that promotes fitness and friendly competition among women from the film and television fraternity.

MLC K Govindaraj, who also heads the Basketball Federation of India, attended the event and interacted with the players, appreciating the initiative for encouraging teamwork and physical activity among celebrities.

In the day's results, Chitradurga and Hassan teams entered the finals in ludo, while Mysuru and Hassan advanced to the carrom finals after intense league-stage battles.

Earlier, on Tuesday, Bellary Queens, led by actress Dhanya Ramkumar, clinched both the lazer tag and bowling titles in thrilling finishes, further adding to the excitement surrounding the multi-sport tournament.

With each passing day, QPL 2.0 continues to showcase the perfect blend of star power, teamwork, and the unifying spirit of sport, cementing its place as one of Bengaluru's most vibrant and engaging celebrity sporting events.

(From left) Mahesh Kumar, founder of QPL, with actresses Sudharani and Prema, and QPL co-founder Pramod Shetty.

Vedant, Faiz help Vidarbha down Karnataka

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hundreds by Vedant Dighade and Md. Faiz propelled Vidarbha to a massive 125-run victory over Karnataka in the BCCI Men's Under-23 State A Trophy at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur on Tuesday.

Batting first, Vedant scored a 102-ball 120 that had six boundaries and maximums each while Faiz took 115 balls for his knock of 122 runs with 10 fours and three sixes. The duo's batting prowess powered Vidarbha to 350 for nine in 50 overs. Manvanth Kumar L was the lone bowling spark for Karnataka as he finished with a four-for (4/60).

Brief scores: Vidarbha: 350/9 in 50 overs (Vedant Dighade 120, Md. Faiz 122; Yashovardhan Parantap 2-56, Manvanth Kumar L 4-60, Yash Punja 2-63) bt Karnataka: 225 all out in 41.1 overs (Dhruv Prabhakar 126, Hardik Raj 42; Pratham Maheshwari 2-29, Arjun Ingle 2-46, Jagjot 2-44, Sanskar Chavate 4-39) by 125 runs.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com